JHANSI:

A GAZETTEER,

BEING

VOLUME XXIV

OF THE

DISTRICT GAZETTEERS OF THE UNITED PROVINCES OF AGRA AND OUDH.

COMPILED AND EDITED

BY

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GAZETTEER OF JHANSI.

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PREFACE.

The articles dealing with the district of Jhansi, as now constituted, and its various subdivisions, towns and villages, formed a part of the first volume of the District Gazetteers of the North-Western Provinces, which was compiled and edited in 1874 by Mr. E. T. Atkinson, B. C. S. The history of the Bundelkhand tract, except for the period of the Mutiny, was treated in a general introductory chapter, while a statistical and descriptive account of each district was given separately. Lalitpur was then a district and was accordingly dealt with apart from Jhansi proper, most of the materials in the case of the former being derived from the settlement report of Colonel James Davidson, and in the case of the latter from that of Mr. E. G. Jenkinson. Since the volume was published not only have Jhansi and Lalitpur been amalgamated into one district, but important exchanges of territory have taken place. The new volume which gives an account of the district of Jhansi, including Lalitpur, is entirely different in form from the old and contains a large amount of new matter which has been derived from a great variety of sources. One of the chief difficulties in its compilation, however, has been the welding of all the available material into a single narrative which will be equally applicable to both portions of the district; for, though closely related in many respects, the district proper has many points of difference from the subdivision. Much of the new information has been derived from the notes collected by Mr. H. W. Pike, I. C. S., in Jhansi proper and from the draft Gagetteer of Lalitpur prepared by Mr. C. A. Silberrad as subdivisional officer. But in compiling

the present volume I am far more deeply indebted to the latter who, as Collector of Jhansi, has spared no pains to collect fresh material and has made many valuable additions and criticisms to the work both while it was still in manuscript and when it was in proof.

NAINI TAL: }
July 1909. } D. L. D-B.

GAZETTEER OF JHÁNSI.

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ABBREVIATIONS.

J. A. S. B.—Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

E. H. I.—The History of India as told by its own Historians, by Sir H. M. Elliot.

CHAPTER I.

GENERAL FEATURES.

THE district of Jhansi lies in the extreme south-west corner of the United Provinces between the parallels of 24°-11′ and 25°-50′ north latitude, and 78° 10′ and 79° 25′ east longitude. It is the largest and most important district of that part of the Allahabad division which lies south of the Jumna river, and is known as British Bundelkhand. To the north and north-west its boundaries march with those of the Jalaun district and the native states of Samthar, Datia and Gwalior; and to the west with that of the last-named state and Khaniadhana, the Betwa river forming the dividing line for a distance of over sixty miles. On the southern side lies the British district of Saugor, this being the only direction in which the limits of the United and Central Provinces are conterminous. On the east, the Orchha territories adjoin it for over one hundred miles, thirty-six miles of the boundary being formed by the Jamni river. From the south-eastern corner, where the Dhasan river first washes the district border, the Orchha state projects north-west across the Betwa river to within three miles of Jhansi town and, turning abruptly eastward, stretches again to the Dhasan, which for the remainder of the distance in that quarter separates this district from that of Hamirpur or territory belonging to the states of Alipura, Garrauli, Bihat, Jigni and Sarila. The total area is now returned at 23,25,993 acres, or 3,634·36 square miles. **Boundaries and area.**

No mere recital of district boundaries however could convey an adequate idea of the irregularity of its outline. Jhansi consists of two portions. The Lalitpur subdivision, which was formerly a distinct district, forms a pear-shaped appendage joined to Jhansi proper by some nine miles of common boundary along the banks of the Betwa river, eighteen miles to the south of Jhansi town. Bounded on all, except its southern and a small part of its eastern, sides by rivers, it is far more symmetrical in outline than the tract to the north. It has the larger area amounting to 1,945·63 square miles, with an extreme length of **General appearance.**

seventy and an extreme breadth of fifty miles. That portion of the district which constitutes the northern tract of Jhansi proper consists of a narrow strip of country, some fifty-six miles long and on the average twelve miles broad, lying to the west of the Betwa river; and a broader expanse to the east of that stream, approximately forty-five miles from north to south and forty miles from east to west. The boundaries are so interlaced with independent states as to defy detailed description; and besides the very numerous and extensive intrusions that have destroyed the symmetry of its borders, there are many scattered villages or groups enclosed by the district which belong to the princes of Orchha, Datia, Samthar and the Hashtbhaiya *jagirdars*. The total area of this portion is 1,673·11 square miles.

Physical features.

The general landscape, familiar to the railway traveller from Itarsi to Cawnpore, is that of bare, undulating plains relieved by confused rocky hills or ravine-edged river beds, and succeeded by an unattractive level expanse of black cotton soil which reaches northwards to the Jumna through Jalaun. On the extreme south lies the Vindhyan plateau ending with an abrupt escarpment, from whose base a rolling black-soil plain, cut up into sections by innumerable *nalas*, stretches northwards to a point beyond the town of Lalitpur. Thence an uneven red soil tract dotted with numerous bare or scrub-clad rocky hills continues, except for the broad boulder-strewn channel of the Betwa, to the north of Jhansi town, embracing also the south-western part of tahsil Mau. This is succeeded again by level black soil in which the rocky outcrops lessen and finally disappear towards the west, but which in the east is marked by long rocky ridges and is scored by deep-bedded streams which terminate in a maze of hideous ravines. This general outline may be filled in greater detail. The southern plateau is intersected, more especially in the south-west, by wide valleys at an elevation but little greater than that of the black-soil plain. To the south the level falls gradually and then rises abruptly at a second escarpment, only to sink once more to the the valley of the Sonr river; beyond this a rocky slope leads upwards to a fairly level stretch of black soil, in which is situated the village of Balabehat. The bulk of the table-land is in reserved forest, and in addition to it a large part of the *zamin-*

dari area is covered with jungle varying from scrub and thorn to tree forest differing but little from that administered by the Forest department. The black-soil plain of central Lalitpur starting from its base is a more or less undulating expanse, cut up by numerous *nalas*, which sinks westwards to the alluvial strip along the Betwa known as *sonru*, and, to the east, merges into a considerable tract of the red gritty soil which is found further north. The three chief streams that drain this part of the district are the Shahzad, Sajnam and Jamni, all of which have a course approximately due north. The northern part of the sub-division, including parganas Talbehat and Bansi and portions of Banpur and Lalitpur, closely resembles the red-soil tract of southern Jhansi and south-western Mau. Throughout this central portion of the district the general effect is that of an uneven and stony waste of reddish soil with small areas of irrigated land surrounding scattered sites. It is traversed by long quartz reefs and diversified by lines or groups of rocky hills covered with scrub jungle, advantage of whose presence has been taken to form a number of tanks and lakes. Further north, this gives place to a fairly level belt of light soil, resembling the *parua* of other Bundelkhand districts, and beyond it to black soil of the ordinary type. The characteristic of this latter tract is small doabs of black soil lying between a series of ravine-edged *nala* valleys. The most important of these *nalas* are the Lakheri and Chaich rivers with their tributaries which run through the Mau and Garautha tahsils and join the Dhasan. Smaller *nalas* run into the Betwa through the Moth tahsil, but the level is there much less broken except in the strip immediately bordering on that river. The soil in the centre of these doabs when free from scouring is good *mar*, but it thins rapidly as it approaches the ravines on either side, and gives place to inferior *kabar* and finally to worthless *rakar*, which borders on the broken banks of the *nalas*. This level tract is traversed by two main lines of hills connected with the southern broken area. One ridge starts from the cluster of hills near Barwa Sagar and runs north-eastward past the fort of Kurar through Jhansi and Moth tahsils; the other follows a parallel course to the east starting from near Katera at the extreme south of Mau and running northwards past the lakes of Kachneh,

Magarwara and Pachwara to the village of Bhasneh. Besides these main ranges, which are throughout the greater part of their length precipitous reefs of quartz, there are detached blocks marking the existence of a similar line of hills through the Moth tahsil, and a detached group of peaks near the village of Haibatpura in the Garautha tahsil. The two chief rivers, the Betwa and the Dhasan, are fringed by a wide belt of unculturable broken ground which expands in the north of tahsil Moth, and in the tract known as the "*Ghar*" near the junction of the two rivers, to a hummocky sea of worthless ravines growing little grass and only the poorest thorny scrub, except in occasional patches of alluvial land near the beds of the streams. The boundaries of the red and black soil area are not very well defined, but speaking generally 26 per cent. of Jhansi proper and 52 per cent. of Lalitpur consist of the rocky red soil; while 71 per cent. of the northern portion of the district is occupied by the *mar*, *kabar* and *parua* tract and 41 per cent. of Lalitpur consists of black soil. The remainder of the district is in reserved forest.

Hills. The whole of Jhansi proper and the greater part of Lalitpur, with the exception of a comparatively narrow strip along the southern boundary, is occupied by gneiss. The formation consists of massive granitic rocks indistinctly foliated and traversed by gigantic quartz reefs forming the hill ranges striking north-east, already described, and by numerous basic dykes of dolerite or diabase striking at right angles, the latter being perhaps intrusive representatives of the volcanic rocks occurring in the Bijawar series. These ranges vary in height from a few feet to over 1,200 above the surface of the ground, the highest point being the hill at Katera which has a recorded height of 1,349 feet and the lowest of the more conspicuous peaks being that of Bhasneh, which exceeds 1,100 feet. The Bijawar series succeeds the gneiss and occupies a narrow strip of country south of Madaora extending for about seventeen miles westward from the Dhasan river. It consist of sandstones, limestones and slates. Though they are usually overlapped by the Vindhyans, there is an outcrop of the Bijawars for a few miles east and west of Sonrai. Some of the beds are highly ferruginous, and the iron has locally become concentrated at the surface, probably by lateritic action,

into a rich hæmatitic ore. A cupriferous vein has also been discovered at the same place. The Lower Vindhyans intervene between the Bijawars and the Upper Vindhyans, but, owing to the overlapping of the latter series, occur only in a very small outcrop at Kurrat on the Dhasan river. They consist principally of sandstone and shale, and are represented in the district by the Dalchipur conglomerate. The Upper Vindhyans are well marked, their outcrop running from south-east to north-west along the south of the subdivision, and are clearly defined by the usual escarpment. A few outliers occur at Dongra, Dongra Kalan and Ero. Where exposed this series consists of massive sandstones with a bed of Kaimur conglomerate at its base and rests directly on the gneiss or occasionally on the Lower Vindhyans or Bijawars. The fringing portion of the great spread of basalt constituting the Malwa Trap just reaches the Lalitpur subdivision near Sonrai, and a few outliers extend on to the gneiss further north. At Bant the Upper Vindhyans form two scarps and then dip south-west under the trap, the limit of the latter being generally marked by the northernmost fringe of the black soil south of the Sonr river and by the Madanpur gorge further east. The only other geological formation found in the district is the cretaceous sandstones of the Lameta group. These often underlie Deccan and Malwa Trap and are met with as small patches close to the basalt outliers four miles south of Madaora, and thirteen miles south and fifteen miles south-west of Lalitpur town.

Levels.

The summit of the hill of Lakhanjhir on the Vindhyan tableland in the extreme south of Lalitpur is crowned by a trigonometrical survey station with a recorded height of 2,064 feet above the level of the sea. The average height of the plateau is 1,650 feet, and from it there is a quick descent to the plain below. The level immediately falls to an average of 1,400 feet and, two miles south of Madaora, little exceeds 1,300 feet. Nearly thirty miles further north, on the road from Lalitpur to Banpur, the recorded height is 1,150 feet, giving roughly a slope of 6 feet per mile for the black soil plain of Lalitpur. The rocky tract that occupies the northern part of the subdivision appears to arrest the descent, but the level continues to

fall and at Pawa near Talbehat within six miles of the Betwa river is 1,070 feet. North-west of that stream the general direction of the slope changes from south and north to south-west and north-east. Babina railway station has a recorded height of 931·5 feet, Jhansi of 850·5, Garhmau of 677, Moth of 575·75 and Punchh of only 540 feet—a gradient of approximately 400 feet in less than seventy miles. The tract east of the Betwa river lies lower than that to the west. On the south the level at Arjar station is 809 feet and that at Mau, twenty miles further east, is 684. At Markuan on the road from Jhansi to Garautha, in the same latitude as Jhansi town, the level falls to 651 feet, and in the neighbourhood of the Betwa bank, further north, the surface is barely 600 feet above the level of the sea. The gradient in the eastern part of Jhansi proper is thus much gentler than in the western, and generally the further north you advance the less defined the slope and the more favourable the conditions for good black soil.

Soils. The soils of the district may be broadly distinguished as the well-known soils *mar*, *kabar*, *parua* and *rakar*, which occur throughout Bundelkhand. This classification, to which should be added *tari* to designate alluvial and semi-alluvial land, covers all the varieties usually recognised in Jhansi proper. In Lalitpur, however, local custom has divided the soil into the three classes of *moti*, *dumat* and *pathri*. *Moti* there includes what elsewhere would be called *mar* and the better qualities of *kabar*. The mixed soil *dumat*, also called *mathi*, consists for the most part of inferior varieties of *kabar*, some *parua* (the latter soil, however, being scarce in the subdivision), and the superior *rakar moti*. *Pathri* is much the same soil as the *rakar pathri* of Jhansi, and is the immediate product of the decomposition of gneiss. The deposits of black soil appear to be much thinner in Lalitpur than in Jhansi, and there is little of what would be classed elsewhere genuine *kabar* or *parua*. According to local ideas, *moti* should include land in which wheat can be successfully grown without irrigation, and all soils intermediate between it and the sandy or stony soil known as *pathri* are called *dumat*. If the locally recognised soils of the subdivision are distributed among their nearest congeners in the

well-known soils of Bundelkhand, it will be found that approximately 23 per cent. of the cultivated area of last settlement consisted of *mar*, 27 per cent. of *kabar*, 16 per cent. of *parua* and 33 per cent. of *rakar*. Though these figures do not represent the actual proportions in which these soils occur in the total area of the district, they give some idea of their comparative prevalence and the relative estimation in which they are held. *Tari* and alluvial soils cover a little over one per cent.

Mar and *kabar* are the well known black cotton soils distinctive of Central India. Their origin is usually ascribed to the subaqueous disintegration of trap rocks, but in part their formation is certainly due to the decomposition or disintegration of basaltic rocks *in situ* or to the deposit of the detritus of similar rocks in *jhils* and hollows. The distinction between *mar* and *kabar* is not recognised in Central India where both varieties are known as *regar*, or, as in Lalitpur, as *moti*. Black cotton soil varies greatly in colour, in consistence and with these, in fertility, but throughout is marked by the constant character of being a highly argillaceous, somewhat calcareous clay; it is very adhesive when wetted, and, from its very absorbent nature, expands and contracts to a very remarkable extent under the successive influence of moisture and dryness. It therefore becomes fissured in every direction by huge cracks in the hot weather. The colour of the soil, often a deep and well-marked black, with every variation from this to a brownish black, would appear to be solely due to an admixture of vegetable organic matter in a soil originally very clayey. *Mar*, as recognised in Bundelkhand proper, is distinguished by the presence of numerous small *kankar* nodules and generally a remarkable friability of texture. *Kabar*, on the other hand, is a pure dark-coloured clay with a varying proportion of sand, ranging from the smallest percentage to an admixture which renders the distinction of *kabar* from heavier forms of *parua* a matter of some difficulty. The faculty which *mar* possesses of retaining moisture, while rendering it normally independent of irrigation, constitutes one of its main dangers; for in seasons of heavy rainfall it becomes oversaturated and impossible to work. Under the same conditions *kabar* is an even more impracticable soil; while, if the

Description of soils.

rainfall is deficient or unequally distributed, it cakes into hard blocks and cannot be overturned by the plough. In both soils *kans* and other noxious weeds run riot, throwing large areas out of cultivation; and ordinarily both need a combination of favourable conditions to ensure successful husbandry which are seldom present. *Parwa* is a light-coloured soil, varying from a fine loam closely resembling that of the Doab to a very sandy mixture. In its finer varieties it is a generous soil which responds readily to irrigation and manure. It is, however, sometimes found largely mixed with clay and closely approximates to a poor variety of *kabar*; but in all cases it depends for its fertility entirely on the skill and labour with which it is cultivated. *Rakar* is a refuse soil found on the edges of ravines or the banks of *nalas* or anywhere where the soil has been subjected to scour or erosion. It is generally divided into *moti* and *pathri*, the former representing deteriorated *mar* and *kabar* or those soils in the first stages of degeneration, and the latter being excoriated light soil. *Moti rakar* is often a soil of some value and consistency commanding high rents, especially if embanked or otherwise improved; and it is also possible to render *pathri rakar* productive in the same way. But both soils are marked by a profusion of *kankar* nodules of generally large size, and *pathri rakar* at its worst becomes, as for instance in the *Ghar*, little but barren *kankar* undulations.

Conventional soils and local variants.

No conventional soils are recognised among the people; all other soils are readily admitted to be variants of one or other of these four, and the names by which these variants are locally known are numerous. In some places *dang*, which signifies nothing but jungle land, uncultivated and perhaps unculturable, becomes *bhato*. A soil is often differently named in different situations, as for example the *painta* of the Dhasanside villages in Garautha is simply *kabar* lying on undulating land instead of on a level. Or land gets a specific name when reserved for a particular crop, as *kirra* (riceland); or when specially fertilized by irrigation or manure, as *khero* (land of any sort adjoining a hamlet). *Patro* is a very convenient term in continual use among the people of Jhansi. It means any

kind of light soil as distinct from *moto* or black soil: there may be *putro mar*, *putro kabar* or *putro parua*: when land lies on the border line between any of the recognised classes or when a natural soil is injuriously affected by any external influence, it is spoken of as *putro*. In the red soil areas the closely cultivated and irrigated land which is fenced in near the sites is known as *tareta*, the outlying portions in which continuous cultivation is impossible being designated *dang* or *har*. Village sites are rarely placed on or in proximity to *moti*, and *tareta* rarely consists of that soil: moreover the application of manure and the use of irrigation makes cultivation in the *tareta* independent of the nature of the soil. *Dang* or *har* on the other hand includes all the land outside the *tareta* fence and consists of red gravel or grit which is rarely or never manured and supports none but the poorest millets. By *tari* is meant land which lies below tanks or in the beds of dry tanks where it is swamped in the rains: it is practically alluvial and its colour becomes dark. The term also includes embanked fields alongside *nala* or river beds.

The rivers and streams of the district consist of the Betwa, Dhasan, Pahuj, Jamni and several minor streams. The latter are for the most part mere torrents which swell to considerable size during the rains, but either shrink during the hot weather into a series of disconnected pools or dry up completely, a description which applies in exceptional years even to the former. In the upper portions of their courses they have numerous tentacles which extend well into the level plains of soil and collect the water during the monsoon over a wide area. Swollen by the flood thus brought down they gather force and cut deep channels with abrupt sides, well below the surface of the surrounding country which they sometimes flood. As they approach the main rivers into which they discharge themselves, their beds become broader, their banks more broken and their streams more and more swollen by tributaries on either hand. From the Vindhyan table-land in the south these watercourses follow the general slope of the country and flow invariably towards the north and north-east.

River system.

The Betwa rises near the village of Kumri in the Bhopal state in latitude 23° 2′ north and longitude 77° 6′ east. Flowing in

The Betwa.

a generally north-eastern course, it first touches the district inthe south-western corner of Lalitpur tahsil on the Saugor boundary. From this point it runs along the western border, separating the district from Gwalior state, for a distance of approximately thirty miles. Three miles north of Talbehat, near the point where the metalled road from Jhansi to Lalitpur crosses it, it turns obliquely north-east, forms the common boundary of the two portions of the district for nine miles, and then disappears into Orchha territory. Eight miles further on it re-enters Jhansi not far from the city, and continues still in a north-easterly direction as far as the town of Erachh, where it turns abruptly to the east and forms the boundary of this district and Jalaun. It finally leaves Jhansi in the extreme north-east of Garautha, after a course of nearly seventy miles. With the exception of the curve near Erachh its course is straight. Flowing for the most part in a rocky bed, it forms a series of deep pools and picturesque cataracts. The narrow gorge where it forces its way through the Vindhyan hills and the magnificent sweep it makes below the steep sandstone cliff which is surmounted by the fort of Deogarh is a scene of striking beauty; and the cascade formed by the dyke at Bandron, known as Karkarao, is a fine though less effective spectacle. Beyond the crossing on the road to Jhansi its channel broadens and several small islands are formed; and shortly after the river splits into two streams which encircle a rocky jungle-covered ridge with smaller pieces of unsubmerged land in both beds. These two arms join just south of the railway bridge which spans the river on the line to Manikpur and the united stream continues for sixteen miles over a rocky granite bed till it reaches the alluvial plain. For most of its course up to this point its sides are not excessively eroded; but thence onwards it flows between beetling banks scored by innumerable ravines, though the stream is usually fringed by a strip of alluvial land of varying width between the river and the cliffs. At Dhukwan, 20 miles south, and at Parichha, 4 miles north-east of Jhansi, its stream is arrested by the magnificent weirs which form the reservoirs of the Betwa canal. Nowhere is it navigable, and owing to the rocky nature of its bed and its steep banks only at a few points is it fordable. At Thana and near the Oorchha station on the Manikpur railway there are bridges

but without provision for cart or passenger traffic: and at Rajghat on the Chanderi road and at Jhararghat on the Lalitpur road causeways have been constructed. There are in the district some twenty ferries over the Betwa, for which reference may be made to the list given in the appendix. The river, which has an infinitesimal discharge in the hot weather, is often flooded to a depth of 40 feet in the rains. During the flood of 1901 the water just failed to top the afflux *bandhs* at Parichha by six inches.

The Dhasan. The Dhasan is a smaller river than the Betwa. Like the latter stream it rises in the Bhopal state and reaches this district in the extreme south of Lalitpur, which it separates from Saugor for a distance of twelve miles. It cuts its way through the Vindhyan hills below the hill of Lakhanjhir and flows over a rocky bed to the Orchha and Bijawar trijunction pillar, where it leaves the district. Reappearing three miles south of Ghat Kotra where the Jhansi-Nowgong road crosses it, after an interval of some sixty miles, it forms the boundary of Jhansi and Hamirpur till it joins the Betwa in the north-eastern corner of the district. In this portion of its course its bed continues at intervals to be rocky, but is usually sandy and flanked by high banks. Throughout its length it is bordered by a belt of ravines often two or three miles in breadth, which near its junction with the Betwa reach their highest development in the maze of wild, broken country known as the *Ghar*. Except when swollen during the rains, the Dhasan is in most places easily fordable, but it is provided with several ferries on the roads to Hamirpur. The only point where it is bridged is on the railway at Ghat Lahchura.

Tributaries of the Betwa and Dhasan. The most important tributary of the Betwa is the Jamni. Rising beyond the southern boundary of the subdivision near Madanpur it flows towards the north-west of Mahroni town, reinforced by many *nalas*. Between Mahroni and Banpur it curves gently to the east, turns again to the north-west, and from Bir to its junction with the Betwa forms the district boundary with the state of Orchha for a distance of twenty miles. During the latter part of its course it is joined by two important tributaries, the Shahzad and Sajnam. All three streams are formidable torrents in the rains, but at other times they contain

little water. Their banks are in places fringed by wide belts of unculturable gravel, and their numerous antennae ramify thoughout the black soil plain of Lalitpur. The principal affluents of the Dhasan lying in the northern tahsils are the Ur, the Sukhnai, the Lakheri with its tributaries, the Dhunderi and Patrehi, and the Chaich. None of these are in any sense important streams, and their only claim to notice is that they have by erosion exercised a most destructive influence throughout the area which they drain.

The Pahuj.

The Pahuj rises in Gwalior territory. It enters the district on the west near the road from Jhansi to Pachor, flows due north within three miles of Jhansi town, and forms the district boundary with the states of Gwalior and Datia for some seventeen miles. It leaves Jhansi near Bhander, disappears into native territory, and ultimately joins the Sindh river near Jagamanpur in Jalaun. It course lies generally through uneven country, but it has not within the limits of this district a very deep bed, nor has it been responsible for any unusual deterioration.

Drainage.

These rivers and streams with their tributaries constitute the natural drainage lines of the country. Their description and that of the physical features and the levels suffice to show that Jhansi is everywhere excessively drained. No part of the district suffers from over saturation, and the problem has always been in it not to drain malarious swamps but to arrest erosion. Besides rendering a large amount of land unculturable by forming ravines the streams by the scour they produce are gradually thinning the upper stratum of good black soil, and the deterioration is progressive. In tahsils Moth and Garautha the damage caused by over drainage is probably more rampant than elsewhere.

Lakes.

The district contains no *jhils*, but its configuration is peculiarly situated to the formation of lakes and tanks, which exist in large numbers. Many of these are of great antiquity and formed by massive embankments built of square stone blocks characteristic of Chandel architecture: they are most abundant in the central red-soil tracts of Jhansi and Lalitpur, and become scarcer in the north and south. The best known are those at Barwa Sagar and Arjar, and the string of lakes along the Bhasneh range at Bhasneh, Pachwara, Magarwara and Kachneh

in Jhansi proper, and the fine tank at Talbehat with the smaller sheets of water at Bijaipura, Panari, Bant and Dhauri Sagar in the subdivision. The lakes and tanks of the district may be divided into four classes. The first of these includes reservoirs formed solely for the storage of water such as those in the village of Jair in Mau tahsil. Secondly there are reservoirs for the temporary storage of water during the rains, the water being drawn off during the cold weather and the dry bed cultivated with *rabi* crops, as in the lake at Pawa in pargana Talbehat. The third class take the form of reservoirs constructed for the temporary storage of water which is used for the irrigation of rice and other crops grown below the embankment during the rains and occasionally for a first watering during the spring harvest, after which the water, if any remains, is drawn off and the previously submerged bed is sown with *rabi* crops. The last class consists of irrigation lakes, from which direct irrigation takes place by means of canals. Of these the Barwa Sagar is the largest and most important. The Chandels, who are credited with all the oldest works of the kind in the district, probably constructed them only for the storage of water; but in a few cases, like Haibatpura, the lakes seem to have been created to adorn a demesne or provide sport. A number of Chandel works have been maintained and repaired, but many have fallen entirely into ruin. At Haibatpura a rock inscription gives the date of one (probably a comparatively modern one) of a small group of lakelets as *sambat* 1604 or 1548 A.D., but most of them are doubtless much older. The large lakes which are important for direct irrigation may be left for treatment in chapter II, and the smaller tanks alone described at present. The larger among these generally intercept the flow of some *nala* with a varying catchment area, the water being arrested by a massive embankment thrown between adjacent hills. The smaller ones are usually formed by less ambitious dams of earth in suitable localities and possess sometimes a very restricted drainage basin. Others again, including most of those that fall into the second and third classes, have shallow beds, and the masonry embankments, instead of being huge stone walls between adjacent hills, are of great length and semi-circular form, pierced by sluices and

constructed across broad shallow valleys of good culturable soil so as to arrest the drainage and catch the fertilizing silt flowing down from above. A number of these dams are sometimes built one behind each other in succession. The indirect value of all these lakes and tanks is very great: they check erosion, fertilize the land along their banks, which is cultivated as the water recedes, and raise the water level of all the wells in the neighbourhood. This is always amply illustrated in seasons of deficient rainfall, when villages which possess a good tank secure good *rabi* crops, while in those that depend entirely on wells the water gives out so early as to cause a serious failure of the harvest.

Precarious tracts. The whole of the district is precarious. Apart from considerations of rainfall, the soils are on the whole even more ungenerous than those in the rest of Bundelkhand. Irrigation is not widespread enough to ensure stability, and the extent of ravine land is very great. The erosive action of *nalas* tends always to denude the soil of all its best qualities. The black soil tracts suffer from all the well-known drawbacks peculiar to *mar* and *kabar*; and the evils of bad soil are increased by a system of agriculture in which the practice of *pahi* or cultivation by non-resident tenants prevails to an unusual extent. Abnormal rain would not in itself, in black soils, be an insuperable evil, but it at once gives prominence to *kans*, that prehistoric scourge of Bundelkhand, the evil effects of which are seen many years after in the large areas of fallow. *Kans* (*saccharum spontaneum*) is a tall, thin grass which grows from two to four feet or even more in height: its roots extend to depths calculated to be from five to seven feet below the surface of the ground. It is probably inherent in the soil, and it is useless for any purposes except thatching or bedding for cattle. Given a favourable opportunity during a succession of abnormally wet seasons which preclude agricultural operations, it spreads with great rapidity, its down-enveloped seeds being carried by the wind in all directions and for long distances. When it has overrun a field its stringy, tangled roots defy the efforts of the oxen to drag the plough though the soil, and the havoc it has played from time to time has been the commonest cause of reductions and revisions of the revenue

demand. No remedy is known for *kans*: those usually applied, if such they may be called, are allowing it to run its course, which it does in from twelve to fifteen years, or constructing a small embankment to swamp it and rot it out. The chief stronghold of the weed has always been the good *mar* villages of Mau and Garautha, which never appear to be free from its influence: tahsil Moth west of the Betwa, the northern contiguous portion of tahsil Jhansi and the black soil plain of Lalitpur appear never to have been badly affected by it. Many theories have been advanced regarding the origin and growth of *kans*; on three points all agree, firstly that any occurrence that weakens the strength of the agricultural community, such as loss of cattle or over-assessment, is invariably followed by its development from a weed into a curse; secondly, that strong and prosperous communities are generally able to prevent it spreading; and thirdly, that poorly prepared land destined for *kharif* sowings is more rapidly attacked by it than fields in which the soil is repeatedly ploughed and thoroughly aerated in anticipation of a crop of wheat.

Waste land. The area returned as barren waste in 1908 amounted to 354,188 acres or 15·22 per cent. of the entire district. This includes, however, reserved forests, *runds*, 70,645 acres covered with water and 32,075 acres occupied by sites, roads and the like. The remainder leaves little room except for hills and the worst ravines and may be accepted as absolutely barren. The smallest percentage lies in pargana Mahroni and the largest in pargana Talbehat where the extent of rock is very great. Banpur and Moth have less than 10 per cent., but Garautha exceeds all other tahsils in Jhansi proper with 21·5 per cent. In addition to this area there are 306,809 acres recorded as culturable waste. The distinction between the two classes is often an extremely fine one, and although it would be rash to make any very definite assertions in a country where the most unlikely land comes at times into cultivation, it may be doubted whether much of the culturable waste so called is not really barren. The very large extent of ravine is a most noticeable feature of the district, and long stretches of country where the rocky substratum is covered by the thinnest superficial layer of soil are found everywhere. It has been frequently affirmed that these tracts are increasing year

by year, and that the soil of Jhansi is being subjected to continual deterioration. Old Chandel lakes and tanks are pointed out as indications that richly irrigated tracts existed where there is not now enough level land for the distribution of water by canals. That widespread deterioration as distinguished from gradual geological change is visibly going on cannot safely be asserted, but what is manifestly increasing year by year, more particularly in the north-eastern part of the district, is the destructive action of ravines. In the Dhasan-side villages, for example, considerable areas that the old settlement maps show to have been under cultivation are now ravine waste: and in other parts of the district the same condition of things holds. The system of constructing a series of dams across valleys is the oldest as it is the most efficacious means of arresting the erosion, and such works are frequently carried out by the people themselves or with the help of Government loans. In tahsil Moth and the northern part of tahsil Jhansi there are numbers of good embankments along promising ground and in the less broken ravine tracts of riverine villages. It remained however for Government to undertake a more systematic and comprehensive experiment.

The Raksa experiment.

In 1887 Mr. G. E. Ward, commissioner of Jhansi, under the auspices of the department of land records and agriculture, and with the co-operation of Major G. M. Bellasis, R. E., executive engineer, launched a new system of improvement with the primary object of rendering productive the broken sterile tract near Jhansi acquired from the Gwalior state in the preceding year. He proposed by a system of small dams of a simple and inexpensive description, commencing from the head of every drainage channel and extending along its course at intervals of from 100 to 500 yards, to arrest the natural drainage, thus preventing the denudation of soil from the higher lands and the sinking of the water level. The work was to be not only protective but remunerative, as the whole area influenced by the interception of the drainage was to become "forest country" The advantages that would accrue from the scheme were set forth as the retention of a vast amount of water by soakage, the reduction of the erosive action of *nalas* and the ultimate reclamation of the whole ravine area by the gradual accumulation of fertilizing

silt above the embankments. The Government agreed in 1888 to the experiment being undertaken. The result, excluding some minor works constructed in Jhansi itself and since demolished on sanitary grounds, is a series of earthen embankments nineteen in number thrown across a main ravine and its tributaries in the villages of Dangarwaha and Raksa in tahsil Jhansi. The main stream, the progress of which is arrested by the embankments, flows subsequently through a gap in a small range of hills. In connection with the embankments situated in the upper half of the catchment area this gap was dammed by a weir, the discharge over which was to act as a gauge of the extent to which the stream flow was checked year by year. The weir, however, was subsequently raised in height and has thus formed at the foot of the hills the extensive lake of Pali Pahari. The cost of the undertaking amounted to Rs. 9,337, or with the Pali Pahari weir to Rs. 13,000. The results that the originators intended may fairly be said to have been on the whole realised. The natural drainage has certainly been arrested; a large quantity of water has been retained in this particular portion of the district, and denudation of the soil, such as it is, together with the erosive action of the ravines has been checked. The irrigated area in the neighbourhood has increased by about 40 acres, and 14 acres are generally irrigated from one of the tanks: four additional wells have been made, and these and 20 others have on the whole a better water supply. As regards direct benefit to agriculture, the adjacent soil is of the very worst description and the silt deposited is of the same inferior quality, and little marked improvement is visible. No fuel or fodder reserves, as was originally intended, have been acquired by the Government, though the area influenced by percolation in the lower portion of the ravine might have been planted out and fenced in. The embankments are annually repaired and kept up, but the scheme has not been extended to other parts of the district. Such a task would be a gigantic and expensive one if not impossible in the countless ravines to the south, but the construction of embankments in less broken country is probably the most remunerative, as it certainly is the oldest and best understood method of improving the agricultural conditions of the country.

History of the forests.

The question of forest reservation attracted the attention of the authorities soon after the cession. The existence in Lalitpur of considerable tracts of good woodland which was being destroyed under the wasteful system of *dhaiya* cultivation, the obvious indications of a former tree-growth in many parts of the district which had vanished, the steady deterioration of the unprotected soil, and the idea that the arid nature of the climate of Jhansi was in part due to the nakedness of the country were some of the considerations that induced the Government to attempt the roboisement of the district. Other contributary causes were the importance of an adequate wood and fuel supply in the then imperfect state of communications, the prospect of establishing the iron industry on a remunerative basis, and the necessity of maintaining the existing fodder preserves, the value of which was greatly emphasised in the famine of 1868-69. In 1866 a report on the forests of the district was submitted by Mr. T. Webber of the Forest department, who toured round the district. Previous to his inspection the settlement officer had taken up all *dangs* or jungle plots where any trees remained, marked them off on the map as Government property, and prohibited the cutting of timber in them. Mr. Webber gave his opinion on the suitability of the whole or portions of these patches for reservation, and it was left to the settlement officer to decide the rights of each village to a share in the forest land, and to demarcate and measure off the reserved portions with boundary pillars. In this way an approximate area of 24,927 acres, nearly half of which lay in Jhansi tahsil, was declared reserved forest in the northern part of the district, and 90,694 acres in Lalitpur. The first measures taken in the direction of reboisement were to clear and fence in patches of land in the old jungle tracts, and to have them planted out with teak, *mahua*, *shisham*, *achar* and other useful trees. Large quantities of seed were obtained from Saharanpur and other places and sown in nurseries established at convenient places in the district. In tahsil Moth, which was most destitute of trees, plots of waste land in 75 villages were taken up with the consent of the landholders and planted with *babul* and *nim* seeds. *Babul* was also sown to some extent in the ravines and waste lands bordering on the Betwa, Dhasan and Pahuj rivers and in a few

Earliest measures.

plots in parganas Garautha and Pandwaha. These plantations however were not taken up as Government property. In the *wajib-ul-arz* or administration paper of all villages where there were any valuable trees or private forest tracts a clause was inserted to the effect that the proprietors would not cut down or sell timber trees without the permission of the district authorities, though they were left at liberty to cut what trees they themselves required and no more. In Lalitpur Captain Tyler proposed in 1865 to reserve and demarcate all culturable waste in excess of a certain fixed scale. The original idea was to dispose of those lands to European and other grantees; but this excess waste was never actually marked off, and a general feeling of discontent arose among the landlords who were left in ignorance of their rights. Ultimately certain rules framed on the model of those in force in the Central Provinces were published providing for the disposal of the waste reserved by Captain Tyler, with a view to encourage plantation of trees in untimbered tracts; but only some 7,000 acres situated in eleven villages of parganas Lalitpur, Banpur, Mahroni and Madaora became subject to these rules. At the same time, however, in nineteen villages of Talbehat a prohibition was issued against the cutting of fourteen kinds of trees, namely, *dhaman, jamun, khawa, mahua,* teak, *shisham, tendu,* bamboo, *khair, achar,* mango, *keun, tinsi* and *siasa.*

Later extension.

So far there had been no systematic forest control undertaken by the Government, though the necessity of strict supervision, the provision of an efficient establishment to carry on the work, and the submission of yearly reports on the working of the newly reserved forest areas were warmly advocated by Mr. Jenkinson in 1870. In April of that year Major G. F. Pearson, conservator of forests, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, made a tour in and submitted a report to the Government on the forests of the Jhansi division. He differed altogether from Mr. Webber with regard to the question whether forests had ever existed in the district. "From long extended opportunities of observation," he wrote, "I am convinced that it is an error to suppose that good timber of any size was ever produced on the north slope of the Vindhyas." As regards the bulk of Jhansi proper he thought it a hopeless locality on which to try and rear a forest. He also

pointed out that the income from the Jhansi reserves, which in 1864-65 was Rs. 2,929 as against an expenditure of Rs. 988, fell to Rs. 2,264 in 1867-68, while the expenditure rose to Rs. 3,750 as the result of the extensions of establishment and other measures advocated by Mr. Webber. As regards the forests of Lalitpur the conservator was more hopeful, but he was not enthusiastic about the teak he saw growing; this appeared to him vastly inferior to that south of the Nerbada and to be dying out in Lalitpur. As regards general matters, Major Pearson advocated the concentration of protective measures on the preservation of the existing teak and their subsequent gradual extension to other trees; but he did not recommend the appointment of a special forest officer till the teak had grown up.

The introduction of reservation.

The reboisement of the district was the subject of some discussion again in 1879, but all that was done in that direction was done in pursuance of Mr. Jenkinson's plan: the *babul* plots were maintained without being extended, and they together with the larger forest areas were declared to be reserved forests. Until 1891 the deputy commissioner was in charge of the forests of the Jhansi district which up till then formed two separate divisions. By a notification,* dated April 25th of that year, the forests of Jhansi, Lalitpur and Banda were created a single division under an extra assistant conservator with headquarters at Jhansi in subordination to the collectors of Jhansi and Banda. The plantations of teak, *shisham*, *sal*, mango and *jamun* have been discontinued at Dhukwan, Ganupura, Bhasneh and Magarpur in Jhansi proper, and artificial reproduction of such trees as will thrive in the climate and soil is carried out by broadcast sowings, the seed being obtained from the submontane forests. At the detailed survey completed in 1888 and the following years, the forest areas which were originally included in the boundaries of the villages were separately demarcated. In Lalitpur the restrictions against the cutting of certain trees in Talbehat having been found irksome were removed, and in 1875 definite portions of 14 villages were marked off and converted into "protected forests," the landlords retaining their right to collect *mahua* and to graze their cattle in them during the period of settlement; and in mauza Sairwans, pargana Lalitpur,

* Revenue no. $\frac{334 \text{ F}}{238 \text{ A}-12}$.

a definite area was taken up as a closed forest. At the revision of settlement between 1894 and 1897, the rights and concessions in all the forests were carefully inquired into, and all matters concerning them were finally set at rest by notifications* published in the Gazette.

Extent and nature of the forests.

The total area of forest in the district at present is 111,213 acres, out of which 87,678·56 acres reserved and 2,729 acres "protected" forest lie in the subdivision. In Jhansi proper the larger tracts lie in the hilly country in the south of Jhansi and Mau tahsils and in patches on the Betwa and Dhasan rivers. Most of them do not contain timber trees of large girth, though teak, bamboo and ebony do well in places. Some are hardly more than struggling *babul* plantations. In Lalitpur the southern blocks along the Vindhyan hills in parganas Balabehat and Madaora contain the best forest, but here too, owing to the rocky character of the ground and shallowness of the soil, trees yielding good timber are, with the exception of the *mahwa*, rare. There is a large amount of teak, but it is mainly coppiced and a sound tree with a girth of over two feet is very unusual. The northern forests are thinner than those to the south, include within their areas large stretches of bare or only scrub-covered rock, and are broken up by innumerable valleys. The only private forest worthy of the name in Jhansi proper is that at Burhpura in tahsil Jhansi, and an attempt to preserve it was made at settlement in 1892 by proposing a provisional assessment to come into force only if the trees were felled: but the proposal was not sanctioned. In Lalitpur there are numerous jungles owned by the landlords of approximately equal extent, though not as a rule of equal value, to those reserved.

Trees and produce.

The chief trees are the teak (Tectona grandis), *mahua* (Bassia latifolia), *salai* (Boswellia thurifera) *dhaman* (Grewia vestita), *papra* (Ficus latifolia) *sej*, (Lagerstroemia parviflora), *dhawa,* locally called *dho* (Anogeissus latifolia), *tendu* (Diospyrus melanoxylon), *achar* or *chironji* (Buchanania latifolia), *aonla* (Phyllanthus emblica), *siaori* (Nyctanthes arbor tristis), *ber* (Zizyphus jujuba), bamboo (Dendrocalamus strictus), *khirni* (Mimusops hexandrus), *gunj* (Odina wodier), *khem* (Stephegyne parviflora), *karar* (Sterculia urens), *kawa*

* No. $\frac{\text{188, 186, 189, 192, 195}}{\text{XIV—74 B.}}$ dated March 30th 1901.

or *kuan* (Terminalia arjuna), *chirol* (Ulmus integrifolia), *makhor* (Zizyphus oenoplia), and *ghont* (Zizyphus xylopyra). Of other trees common in open ground and waste, the *dhak* (Butea frondosa), *bekal* (Celastrus senegalensis), *karaunda* (Carissa karondas) *chamarkawar* (Randia dumetorum) and the *dhawen* (Woodfordia floribunda) may be noted. Minor forest products are lac, gum, honey, catechu and various edible fruits and roots. The right to gather lac and gum for a fixed period is usually sold, and Saherias are employed by contractors to gather them. Catechu is extracted by *Khairgars* locally called Khairwas, who purchase the right of cutting *khair* trees over a limited area. Of edible plants besides those already mentioned there are several species of yams* which are eaten by Saherias only. The only product of any value for export is bamboos, which grow extensively and are of excellent quality. But grass grows plentifully and is of immense and yearly increasing importance as a reserve of fodder. The average annual receipts from the Jhansi and Lalitpur forests have been during the last five years Rs. 25,232. During the same period the average yearly expenditure, exclusive of the pay and upkeep of the head office and establishment, amounted to Rs. 11,332. But their value is rather to be sought in a cheap and sustained supply of fuel, the provision of wood for local needs and, above all, in the fodder reserve they provide in years of drought; and it is with a view to increase their value in this respect that efforts are being made to close parts of the forests in rotation, so as to prevent unrestricted grazing. In this connection it may be noted that during the recent famine of 1907-08, 38,659 maunds of grass from them were baled and despatched as fodder to famine-stricken parts, the supply being supplemented by 5,868 maunds from private jungles and 5,641 maunds from the reserved tracts of the Saugor division in the Central Provinces which adjoin those of Lalitpur.

Grass and grass runds.

In addition to the forest preserves and private jungles, the wastes furnish fair grazing grounds. The formation of grass

* These are varieties of the tribe called Dioscorea, and have been identified as D. Alata (*ritalu*), D. crispata (*karia kand* or *karo kand*), D. dæmona (*chaus* or *barai kand*), D. fasciculata (*sonrh*), D. sativa (*agitha*) D. tomentosa (*gajaria*): a seventh is known as *manmaur*.

reserves and the sale of their produce to Jhansi contractors yield a large income to villages within a moderate distance of that town, and in years of drought even remote villages of Lalitpur send their spare grass to the railway station, to be there compressed and forwarded by rail. The area tends to increase as in a large part of the red soil tract of Jhansi tahsil and also in parts of Mau and Moth experience shows that grass is the most profitable produce; while some castes, more especially Ahirs, Ghosis and Gadariyas, are much more inclined to raise stock than to extend the area under tillage. Besides these private reserves, there are some large *runds* under Government control, which were taken up at the same time as the forests. Out of an original twelve marked down for reservation, nine blocks were taken under Government management by sanction conveyed in letter no. 424 A., dated April 9th, 1864: two others, namely those at Bilora and Dangaia, were settled by the settlement officer with farmers, and one at Magarpur was included in the jungle tract. The reserved *runds* are all in the Jhansi tahsil, and are situated at Babina, Sauyar, Simra Bari, Koti, Simraha, Digara, Chamraua, Khailar, Bhagwantpura, Punauli Kalan, Dhikauli and Sijwaha: they have a total area of 6,226·51 acres. The grass, which is usually sold at auction every year to local residents or leased to the military authorities, consists for the most part of *musel* (Iseilema laxum and Iseilema Wrightii), *guner* (Anthisteria scandens), *send* or *bhanpuri* (Apluda aristata), *kel* (Andropagon annulatus), and *lampo* or *parba* (Heteropagon contortus), the well-known spear grass of Bundelkhand.

The total recorded area in 1907 occupied by groves was only 2610 acres. Fenced groves of the Oudh type are very rare, but large plantations of trees are not infrequently met with where the soil is congenial to their growth. More generally scattered *mahuas* are the chief feature of the district, and as elsewhere the black soil tracts are singularly bare of trees of any sort, the only wood that takes kindly to it being the *babul* (Acacia arabica). Elsewhere, though not absolutely unfavourable to tree life, the soil is too dry to encourage any luxuriance of vegetation, and the rapid drainage prevents any accumulation of soil round the roots. In the neighbourhood of Barwa Sagar, Mau- **Groves.**

Ranipur and Jhansi there are the remnants of fine groves, the propagation of which was encouraged in old days by grants of land rent free; and the large tamarind trees, loved by the Mahrattas, are still very noticeable. Mangos are comparatively rare. Of cultivated trees in gardens or in avenues, the *mahua*, *shisham*, tamarind, *nim*, *siras*, *jamun*, *bargad* and *pipal* are the commonest. The timber of these trees is used for building and the *kanji* or Indian beech (Pongamia glabra) has been introduced in the neighbourhood of Jhansi and has succeeded well. Its fruit, from which oil used for greasing wheels and for lighting is expressed, is sold in the month of February to wheelwrights and others. Of uncultivated trees, the roots of the *dhak* and the leaves of the somewhat uncommon palm are used for caulking boats and making ropes; the *babul* serves for ploughs and harrows, and the gnarled wood of the *kardhai* (Anogeissus pendula) for roof joists. The *ber* furnishes a palatable fruit, and the smaller variety usually called *biria* or *jharber* (Zizyphus mummularia) provides edible berries used for human as well as cattle food. The *salai* (Boswellia thurifera) which thrives well in places yields a gum which is employed as incense called *loban*.

Minerals of Jhansi. In the district of Jhansi proper the mineral products are not many or important. There are stone quarries, and the stone is used to a considerable extent for ordinary building purposes. The fine remains of Chandel masonry and the large number of stone sugar mills scattered everywhere are built of local stone; but the cost of quarrying and cutting militates against its extensive employment as most of it is exceedingly hard to work. Iron, which was still smelted in 1894 in the village of Jair in the south of Mau tahsil, is not now worked: the lode from which the ore is derived lies beyond the district boundaries in Orchha state.* Soapstone of an inferior quality is found in the hills of Gaurari and Palar some six miles to the north of Jhansi. *Kankar* pits are worked near the city, the product costing from Re. 1 to Re. 1-4-0 per 100 cubic feet at the mouth. Broken gneiss stone for road metalling, called *gitti*, is everywhere procurable, the average price being Rs. 2-0-0 per 100 cubic feet: *moram* and *bajri* can be obtained throughout the district at an average cost

* In Dhawara, 6 miles west.

of eight annas for a like quantity. The cartage for all the three last named articles amounts to Rs. 2-8 0 per hundred maunds for the distance from the pits and quarries to the towns of Lalitpur and Jhansi.

Minerals of Lalitpur.

The Lalitpur subdivision is far richer in mineral products than the district proper. Sandstone of excellent quality is quarried from the upper Vindhyans at Hardari, three miles from Dhourra railway station, whence it is exported. It is also excavated at Jamunia, Chandpur and other villages in Balabehat, and at Madanpur and Patna in Madaora. This stone can be delivered at a cost of six annas per cubic foot within five miles of of the quarries, and at Lalitpur a slab measuring 3′ × 1′ × 1½″ costs two and a half annas. In no place is there a bed of limestone, but lime of fair quality is always obtainable by burning a species of *bajri kankar* which is dug from the *dumat* and *moti* soils and in the beds of *nalas*. If burnt with wood it costs Rs. 15-0-0, and if with cowdung, Rs. 10-0-0 per 100 cubic feet, the price of cartage being the same as for *kankar* or *gitti*. This *kankar* is not of sufficient consistency to be used as road-metal, for which purposes it is replaced by *gitti*. At Bijri in Banpur there is a quarry of steatite from which are fashioned bowls and other articles at the neighbouring village of Kelgawan. The quarry is generally leased out to Banias and the finished articles are exported to Allahabad, Calcutta and Hyderabad, where they are largely sold for use in temples. Yellow ochre, or a material closely resembling it, was formerly quarried at Hadda in Madaora, but the quarry has now been closed for many years. Millstones are made at Kari-Toran, and in a hill close to that village mica has been found.

Iron.

A large industry was once carried on in iron-smelting and in 1874 there were fifty-three furnaces at work ; these are now reduced to four, three being situated at Solda and one at Sonrai. The ore from which the iron is extracted is a soft hæmatite found in the Bijawar series about one mile south of the former village, within the precincts of the reserved forest. For a payment of seven rupees per annum, a man is entitled to as much ore and charcoal as he requires from five acres of jungle, subject to the proviso that only trees of a certain kind and of a certain

girth are cut. One man is able to dig two maunds of ore a day, receiving for this work four annas in wages, and four maunds can be smelted in one furnace in the same length of time. The material goes through two processes. A circular furnace formed like a mud wall three feet high, about four feet long, and a couple of feet thick, is charged with a basketful of charcoal and pounded ore, the latter being again covered with charcoal: as the first charge subsides more ore and charcoal are added. In all about 25 *sers* of the latter and 12 of the former are put in for one operation. The bellows, the blast from which is introduced through a partially baked earthen nozzle or tuyère called *nariya*, is of a double type and is worked by a man sitting behind the furnace on a small stool. The blast is kept up continuously, the slag meanwhile running off through a hole provided for the purpose in front. The conglomeration of the iron is aided with a long bar called *girdalo*, and after about three hours a spongy mass weighing about six *sers* has formed at the bottom of the furnace. It is extracted through the top with a pair of long tongs, immediately cleft in two and left in the open air to cool. The iron so obtained is further refined in a smaller furnace similar to the ordinary *lohar's* forge, save that it has a longer flue and a vent-hole for slag. When heated in this the pig, called *dhariya*, loses half its weight or more, but it is pure enough for use. The *lohars* generally perform this second process themselves. The slag is called *mel* or *khet* and an iron hoop called *tanni* is used for extracting it. Unrefined pig iron costs only two or three pice a *ser*, but the finished product is usually sold at Re. 1-4-0 per maund to Banias who advance money to the *lohars*. It is mostly conveyed to Rahatgarh in the Saugor district, where it is purchased by other smiths who work it into tools and implements. Tempered steel is nowhere manufactured; but the final product of the furnaces is often of a steely hardness, especially that which was formerly manufactured at Pura in pargana Talbehat: this latter product is called *kheri* and sells at double the price of the ordinary soft iron.

Copper. Copper ore has also been discovered in the same locality as the iron. The following account of it was given by Mr. Mallet of the Geological Survey: "During last cold season (1866) an

iron smelter of Solda, a village south-east of Sonrai, but for the time being a prisoner in the Lalitpur jail, informed Mr. Hicks, assistant commissioner, that he was acquainted with the locality and could point it out. On being brought to Sonrai he indicated a spot, just south of the village, where a small excavation was made and some ore obtained, from a maund of which mineral, with more or less rubbish, twelve *sers* of copper were extracted at a very trifling cost. I visited the opening soon after, and found that this fissure had been filled up with clay and pebbles of various kinds, of which copper ore is one. The copper occurs about six feet from the surface, the stones in its immediate neighbourhood being mostly of the Bijawar ferruginous beds, and apparently of the conglomerate base rock. It struck me as not impossible that this detrital copper is the refuse of old workings from a true lode, washed with the other stones into their present condition by surface water . . . . . At all events the occurrence of detrital copper here points to its existence not far off . . . . and the research is worth prosecuting, as it seems by no means improbable that the run is one of considerable value." These mines, however, have never been worked.* The same metal has been said to have been found also at Hadda, and a piece of quartz with distinct indications of it has been discovered a mile west of Lalitpur.

Building materials.

The only dressed stone for building purposes is that procured from the Vindhyan hills, which has been already mentioned. The highly ornamented temples built by the Chandels and others are generally constructed of this material. Uncoursed rubble work is generally substituted for it at the present day owing to the cost of cutting and cartage. In the villages the houses are usually built of rough stones, which can be picked up anywhere in the neighbourhood of the hills, stuck together with mud. The latter, being often of a clayey consistency, makes a sufficiently cohesive wall, and furnishes fair material for the tiles which are commonly used for roofing. Bricks formed of the same material sell at Re. 1 per 900, when of the ordinary kind; but those of better quality called *nau terahin*

* A firm called the Jabalpur Prospecting Syndicate has lately taken out a license, but has not yet commenced any operations.

cost Re. 1 per 700. In the more pretensious buildings lime masonry is employed, and costs Rs. 15 per 100 cubic feet when bricks are used, or Rs. 12 for the same quantity if stones are utilised. Tiles cost about Rs. 3 per 100, and bundles of *kans* grass for thatching Re. 1 per 1,000. Roofs are supported by a trellis work of bamboos procured at a rate of Rs. 3 per 100, or by *kurias* (regular straight shoots of the *siura* tree not more than two inches in diameter), a hundred of which can be purchased for about eight annas. The indigenous teak rarely attains sufficient size to yield timber for beams or planks: small *ballis* of the *sej* and *dhawa* are in great demand as rafters. They cost from Rs. 15 to Rs. 30 per 100 running feet, according to quality. Of local trees, the *shisham*, *mahua*, *nim*, mango and tamarind are utilised for timber, and sell at eight annas to three rupees per cubic foot. *Shisham* wood is the most commonly used, but also the most expensive: the better class of timber such as *sal* and *deodar* has to be imported from the northern forests.

Fauna. Wild animals abound in the forests throughout the district. The tiger is fairly common in the subdivision but not in Jhansi proper. Leopards are frequent in both parts and occasionally these beasts are responsible for the deaths of human beings, while every year a considerable number of cattle are lost from their depredations. Rewards at Rs. 10 per head are paid for their destruction. Other carnivorous animals for the destruction of which rewards are given are wolves, hyenas and wild dogs. The two former are common throughout the ravines, but while the first are not easily caught or killed the second are frequently tracked and snared in their dens. Wild dogs command a reward of Rs. 10 a head; they often commit extensive depredations among the wild game of the forests, but they are extremely difficult to circumvent. Jackals and foxes abound, but are not responsible for any damage. The common antelope or black buck is met with in large herds, and plays havoc among the crops. Though arms licenses are granted as readily as is compatible with due regard to the control of dacoity, the people do not kill antelope freely and are content to drive them from one field to another. An even more destructive pest to agriculture

is the wild pig, which finds a congenial home in the countless ravines and scrub-grown wastes: only by an impenetrable thorn hedge and constant watching can the crops be protected from its ravages. In the same localities the *chinkara* or ravine gazelle is very common, and only less destructive than the antelope because less numerous. The blue bull or *nilgai* also haunts the jungles; and of the larger cervidæ the *sambar*, the *cheetal* and the rarer four-horned deer frequent the larger forests. Bears, the Indian lynx and various jungle cats or civets also occur: while hares, porcupines, badgers and monkeys abound. Crocodiles (both *magars* and *gharials*) are found in the large rivers.

Birds. The commoner game birds comprise the gray partridge, the smaller sandgrouse, various kinds of quail and snipe; and the painted partridge, painted sandgrouse and the bustard are occasionally met with. Peacocks are numerous: both the blue rock and green pigeon are common. Of the migratory species of waterfowl, various kinds of geese, duck, teal and sheldrakes visit the district in the cold weather, as also do *kulan* and other cranes and herons. The *sarus* is a permanent resident and is always to be found on the black cotton plains. The avifauna include doves, parrots, rollers, crows, shrikes and the common species of small birds.

Fish. Fish of the usual varieties common to the rivers of the plains are to be found in abundance in the rivers or tanks of the district. The chief of those that are found in both are the *kalabans*, *parhin*, *tengra*, *saur*, *digar* (walligu attu) and *chilwa*. The *mahser*, *rohu*, *bawas* and *gulabi machli* or trout are only found in rivers. *Mahser* run to 10 pounds in weight and furnish good sport with spoon, bait or fly, according to season. Other fish are caught by angling with paste or worms. Many fish meet with destruction when the pools in the smaller tributaries, to which they repair for spawning, dry up, or in the tanks by running over the escape weirs. Fish is not a staple article of diet among the people of the district, though most castes are prepared to eat it. Jhansi however offers a steady market for consumption. The professional fish catchers are Dhimars and Kahars. Only sixty-six persons however including dependants were classified as fishermen at the census of 1901, but many more than this number resort to

fishing as a subsidiary means of livelihood. Fish are chiefly caught with nets of various designs: but rod and line are also used, and occasionally they are shot and speared in sport.

Cattle. The indigenous breeds of cattle are generally of an inferior character. Bulls and bullocks for the plough are usually imported from other districts such as Saugor and Banda, the small wiry breed known as the *kenwariya* in the latter district being held in high esteem. The cattle from the Doab and other districts of the plains do not appear to thrive on the grasses of Bundelkhand. In 1870 a pair of Hissar bulls was imported for breeding purposes, but they were considered to be too large for the plough or for draft. For draft purposes there is a good indigenous breed at Chanderi close to the border, which is frequently purchased by inhabitants of Jhansi. The cost and feed of the larger cattle, such as those of Nagor or Hissar, is found to be a barrier against their general introduction: for breeding purposes, however, they are more successfully employed, though the *kenwariya* still holds the first place, because it is more suited to the dry and raviny nature of the district. The supply of cattle is comparatively small, especially in Jhansi proper, where the plough duty is high. At the recent settlement in 1906 this averaged 12·7 acres for that portion of the district and 8·4 acres in Lalitpur, the lower figure in the subdivision being accounted for by the fact that the villagers there rely more on their cattle and jungle produce for subsistence and do a correspondingly smaller amount of cultivation. At the stock census taken in 1899 it was ascertained that the number of bulls and bullocks was 181,362 and of male buffaloes 4,755. The number of ploughs at the same date was 76,045, leaving a proportion of 2·30 animals per plough against a provincial average of 2·33. On the other hand there were 188,952 cows and 69,830 cow-buffaloes, the former number being one of the highest recorded in the province and indicating the existence of a fairly extensive breeding industry and trade in *ghi*, both of which in fact are carried on all over the district but especially by the Ahirs and Gujars who live along the Pahuj river in Moth tahsil. The district total for young stock was also large and amounted to 263,915. The most recent census of stock was taken in January 1909; and it was then found that there were

197,471 plough animals, 267,122 cows and cow-buffaloes, and 261,067 head of young stock in the district—an increase under all heads except that of young stock. The average price of good plough cattle is Rs. 50 each: buffaloes cost less, and good milch buffaloes fetch as much as Rs. 60. Indigenous cattle seldom sell for more than Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 per head.

Horses. Horses, like good plough cattle, are generally imported, and no horse-breeding is carried on in the district. The local breed consists of small and stunted ponies, used only for the conveyance of their owners or to carry light loads. Their number was 8,036 in 1899, and had only increased to 8,240 in 1909. Mares and foals are let loose to pick up what grazing they can on waste land, and no attempts have been made to improve the breed by the provision of stallions, none being maintained in the district.

Other animals. At the stock census in 1899 there were 70,068 sheep and 114,972 goats in Jhansi: both animals are abundant in the district, where they find excellent grazing. Their numbers had risen to 88,885 and 288,262 respectively in 1909. These figures are among the highest in the province, though Jhansi does not rise to any eminence in this respect. The breed of goats, especially on the banks of the Dhasan, are celebrated for their size and beauty and for the large quantity of milk they give on light feeding. Sheep and goats are bred for the butcher, and are little used for penning on the land. The census returns of 1909 also showed 4,505 donkeys, 382 mules and 289 camels. Donkeys are the usual overworked beasts of burden which are seen in the neighbourhood of big cities, but a European contractor has started a mule-breeding establishment, which may result in some improvement in the mules. Camels are not indigenous, and do not flourish in the district during the rainy season: they are imported for transport work during the cold weather. Carts, of which in 1909 there were 25,198, are comparatively abundant; but the large trade that centres round Jhansi is probably responsible for so high a number, as the rocky nature of the country is not favourable to wheeled traffic.

Cattle Disease. The returns of cattle disease, though too unreliable for the formation of definite conclusions, suffice to show that the usual forms of sickness are always prevalent, and occasionally assume

an epidemic character. The most usual forms are rinderpest, called *chechak* or *bhawani*, and foot-and-mouth disease, called indifferently *bekhra*, *charchara* and *sankar rog*. There was a severe outbreak of the latter in Mahroni pargana in 1870, during which the ratio of death to attack was approximately 20 per cent. Hæmorrhagic septicæmia and anthrax also occur. The district board maintains two peripatetic veterinary assistants, and during the year ending March 1908 as many as 4,682 animals were treated for contagious diseases, as well as 310 others suffering from non-infectious forms of sickness. Over 20,000 inoculations against rinderpest were also performed.

Climate. The climate of Jhansi, as might be expected from the rocky nature of the ground, the rapid drainage, the absence of high jungle and the general depth of the water level, is characterized by exceeding dryness and by heat considerably above the average of the province. The intense heat of May and June which is rendered more bearable by the absence of moisture from the air is followed by pleasant weather in the rains, though the wide range of the thermometer, especially towards the close of the monsoon, is accompanied by fairly general outbreaks of fever. In the cold weather the air is dry and chilly, but there is, especially in Jhansi proper, a general immunity from frost. Owing to the greater elevation of Lalitpur the climate is fully five degrees cooler: very hot nights are the exception, and during the rains a breeze is rarely absent. During December and January the hot days are succeeded by very cold nights and frosts are not infrequent. Over the whole district, the hot weather begins somewhat earlier and lingers somewhat longer than in the Doab. For natives of the Doab the climate is generally unhealthy, more especially during the months of September and October, when it is malarious. Jhansi is a reporting station at which daily records of the weather are kept. The mean annual temperature is 79·5. The coldest month is January with an average of 64° F., and May the hottest with 95° 5 F. The usual maximum temperature in the shade is, duing the hot weather, about 116° F., but this is often exceeded, and temperatures of over 120° F. are not infrequently recorded. The readings, however, range somewhat higher than the actuals owing to the position of the observing station within the city walls.

Records of the rainfall have been maintained at Jhansi since 1864, at the various tahsil headquarters from the same year, and at Talbehat and Narhat since 1868. In a normal season the rains burst in the last week or ten days of June and continue with ordinary steadiness till the end of August, when there is a break, followed by storms about the middle of September and by occasional rain in October. The so-called Christmas rains are rarely copious, extremely uncertain, and generally about a month behind their traditionary date. According to the Meteorological department the annual normal fall for the district is 38·5 inches; but it is higher in Lalitpur than in Jhansi proper. In the latter portion of the district, Mau receives an average of over 38, Jhansi and Garautha of over 36, and Moth, the furthest north, of only 32 inches. Of the four stations in the sub-division where observations are kept Narhat reports a mean fall of 45·5 inches, Mahroni over 41, Lalitpur 40·5 and Talbehat only 36. The rainfall is thus heaviest in the south and gradually decreases as you proceed north. Since 1879 records of the rainfall have also been maintained at Barwa Sagar, Pachwara and Magarwara by the Canal department. The rainfall in Jhansi is uncertain but does not fluctuate as a rule between very wide limits: the highest recorded fall was one of 58·69 inches at Jhansi in 1901. The actually lowest recorded falls were those of 11·05 at Moth and 10·64 at Garautha in 1905. In the subdivision heavier falls occur; in 1894, Mahroni received 75·61 inches and Narhat 69·15. The most abnormal year on record is the famine year of 1868, when only 12·10 inches fell at Mahroni and 10·10 at Narhat. Rainfall.

Though Jhansi is not entirely a healthy district, the climate is not an insalubrious one. An examination of the vital statistics affords a fair idea of the public health, although the returns cannot be considered more than approximately accurate, and for the earliest years cannot be regarded as other than unsatisfactory.* From 1877 to 1884 the average annual number of recorded deaths was 18,647, giving a rate of 35·15 per mille. This appears to have been a normal period, though the number of deaths from fever was slightly above the average. During the ensuing decade, from 1881 to 1890, the average rose to 23,295, with a resultant Health.

* Appendix, table III.

rate of 37·27 per mille, calculated on the census returns of 1881. The period was however marked by one severe outbreak of cholera in 1887, and on five occasions small-pox carried off far more people than is usual now. From 1891 to 1900 the proportion of deaths fell again to 35·95 per mille, but both in 1896 and 1900, which were years of famine and scarcity, the number of recorded deaths was considerably above the average. In 1896 cholera and small-pox both visited the district, and the number of deaths attributed to fever was abnormal and due probably to the after-effects of famine. From 1901-1907, the average number of deaths has been 26,036 or 42·21 per mile, but 1906 was again a year of scarcity accompanied by cholera and small-pox, when the proportion of deaths rose to 73·34 per mille, the highest figure ever recorded, and in 1903 fever carried off a large number of people. The birth-rate has exceeded the death-rate in every year since 1887 except in 1895, 1896, 1897 and 1900, when the vitality of the people had been reduced to a low ebb by famine; ordinarily it exceeds the death-rate by a large margin.

Disease.

In another table in the appendix* the number of deaths occurring from the principal forms of disease will be found. As usual fever heads the list, but apart from malarial fever, which is always prevalent, this term is made to include many cases in which fever is only a symptom of the disease rather than the cause of death. Fever of a particular type accompanied by ague is widespread, especially in black soil tracts during September and October, and natives of all classes are much prostrated by it. The occasions when it assumes the proportions of an epidemic and the seasons which may normally be considered dry and healthy are very clearly reflected in the mortality returns. According to these returns fever is annually responsible for 55 per cent. of the entire number of deaths, but in normal years it accounts for some 12,000 deaths only.

Cholera.

Cholera comes and goes but is not epidemic. Sometimes the district is entirely immune from this disease, at other times its ravages are considerable. It spreads particularly in those years of diminished rainfall when the water supply has become reduced or has been polluted, and the larger famine

*Appendix, table IV.

works in years of scarcity have generally been in some case or other visited by cholera. The average number of deaths since 1881 has been 1,143 per annum or 4·62 per cent. of the total mortality. It occurred in epidemic form in 1887, 1896 and 1906, and on other occasions, namely in 1884, 1889, 1892, 1897 and 1900, the number of recorded deaths was over 1,000. With these exceptions the disease has not appeared with any great intensity.

Small-pox. There are no records to show how far small-pox was prevalent before the spread of vaccination, but it is abundantly clear that within the last twenty years, except on three occasions, it has not afflicted the district to any appreciable extent. The average mortality from 1881 to 1890, a period marked by five severe outbreaks of the disease in 1881, 1882, 1883, 1886 and 1887, was 1,232 annually. Since 1891 the average number of deaths has only been 276, and if the years 1896, 1905 and 1906, when severe epidemics again occurred, be excluded, the average sinks to only 61. There has been a small but steady increase in the number of persons vaccinated. From 1881 to 1891 the average was 18,751, from 1891 to 1900, 19,022, and from 1901 to 1907, 22,440 persons. The district is thus well protected, and considering the backward character of the people vaccination has made very satisfactory progress.

Other diseases. The water of the district is disliked by natives, especially those of the Doab; it is said to produce sores on the body, to be full of animalculœ and to be charged with fine dust; and the unhealthiness incurred by drinking it is supposed to be enhanced by the difficulty of procuring vegetable food. The sudden changes of temperature that take place during the latter part of the rains and in the cold weather is calculated to induce, especially among those who are improperly clad, various maladies, of which pneumonia is probably the most frequent but which are generically termed fever by the ignorant. Every year, too, a number of people are carried off by dysentery and bowel complaints, the average number of deaths for the last twenty years having been 1,824. On the other hand the district has suffered but little from plague. This disease first made its appearance in 1902, but it did not assume an epidemic form,

and in 1905 the district was free from it again. The highest number of recorded deaths was 1,141 in 1904. The generally airy situation of the village sites, the open-air life and the powerful disinfecting action of the sun in the unusually clear atmosphere are possibly responsible for the immunity.

Infirmities.

When statistics of infirmities were first compiled, in 1881, 70 lunatics, 240 lepers, 213 deaf-mutes and 1,862 blind persons were recorded. Ten years later the number of insane had risen to 94, lepers to 300, deafmutes to 486 and blind persons to 2,288. The reason for this increase is not apparent, but some difference was doubtless made owing to the incorporation of the large city of Jhansi in the district in 1886. In 1901 there was a large decrease all round: lunatics had fallen to 46, lepers to 84, deaf-mutes to 150 and blind persons to 924. These numbers are generally well below the provincial average. The decline in numbers in the past decade is perhaps in part accounted for by the fact that these people are for the most part beggars and consequently suffered more than any other class of persons from the effects of famine when the flow of charity dried up.

CHAPTER II.

Agriculture and Commerce.

The agriculture of the district as a whole is not of a high order as is evident from the nature of the crops grown, the character of the cultivating classes, the sparseness of the population, the absence of irrigation, and the large proportion of high-caste tenants and proprietors. High cultivation is almost entirely absent except in a few villages such as Barwa Sagar, and the standard is particularly low in parts of the Lalitpur subdivision where *pahi* cultivation prevails. The preparation of the ground is generally inadequate, and little of it, except in the carefully worked *tareta* of the red soil areas, receives manure. Nature is allowed to work in her own way, and the harvests she gives are imperfectly protected and improvidently garnered. The homosteads are separated from each other by long distances, and there are few outlying hamlets. Fencing in Jhansi proper, except in the irrigated tracts where an impenetrable thorn hedge is raised to protect the crops from wild animals, is unknown. One may traverse miles of rich black cotton soil without seeing a human being, and in the hot weather, except on the margin of the lakes, the desolation is still greater. On the other hand there is good husbandry to be found on a small scale in the *kabar parua* tract of northern Jhansi and southern Moth; and the proximity and extent of jungle in Lalitpur necessitates the fencing in of the *rabi* crops in all soils; while in the rugged country, which forms generally the red soil tract, the groan of the Persian wheels, which dot the surface of the valleys, is almost incessantly heard, and cultivators are found at work in remote spots wherever irrigation renders the soil culturable. Here too, where wood is plentiful, cowdung is not invariably used for fuel and becomes available for manure. The calendar of agricultural operations is a simple one. When the first rain falls, normally at the end of June, the soil is roughly scratched **Cultivation.**

with the plough, and cotton is sown, usually in combination with some other crop. In July, if the rain continues, *juar* is put in, and towards the end of the month *til*, *bajra* and the smaller millets. The cotton is then weeded where practicable, after it the the *juar*, and about the middle or the end of August, when the latter reaches a foot or so above the ground, furrows are run through it with the plough, the operation being known as *birai*. *Bajra* and other inferior *kharif* crops need little attention and get none. *Kuar* (September-October) is the critical month for the husbandman in black soil tracts. Rain is necessary to bring the *kharif* crop to maturity and to soften the ground for *rabi* ploughing. In October most of the autumn harvest is gathered in, and the *kutki* rice is cut. *Juar* and *bajra* heads are snipped off at the beginning of November: cattle are allowed to graze on the succulent leaves of the plants as they stand, and little use is made of the stalks unless scarcity is pressing. The smaller millets are uprooted. In October and November *rabi* sowings take place. For the spring crops the earth is prepared more carefully, fields being ploughed on the average four times; but the number depends on the strength of the cultivator, his cattle and the capital he can command. Where irrigation is possible *pisiya* wheat is sown and gets four or five waterings of two days' duration each. In the black soil tract, where the crops are grown dry, the seed is dropped in and left to mature as best it can. If wild animals are particularly pressing Chamars are hired to sleep out at nights. By the beginning of April the *rabi* harvest is over, wheat being frequently uprooted instead of cut by the sickle. Men, women and children swarm across from the sterile tracts in the south and from the Orchha state to earn scanty wages as harvesters. From April till June the fields are again left to solitude. The hot weather crops at Barwa Sagar and other lakes are gathered; and *jetha** rice round some of the large tanks is sown by dibbling in near the water's edge. Kachhis grow small patches of summer crops, *chena* is sown where irrigation is procurable, and Dhimars in certain Betwa and Pahuj-side villages cultivate melons, which are ready for the market in May. Otherwise operations are at a

* Also called *sathia* from the fact that it takes only 60 days to ripen.

standstill. Rotation of crops is recognised as a necessity only in inferior soils. In black soils the benefits of rotation are in practice secured by mixing wheat and gram, and the land is seldom rested. Similarly in irrigated tracts its freshness is ensured by the application of manure. Where the black soil is weaker, *juar* is grown in alternation with wheat or gram, and *parua* is generally given a loose rotation of *juar*, cotton and gram. The greatest regularity of rotation, however, is observed in *rakar*, when *kodon, til* and cotton, or *kodon*, cotton and *juar* invariably alternate in land which after three years has to be left fallow for an indefinite period to recoup its productivity.

Agricultural implements. The ordinary agricultural implement is the drill plough called *hal*, with its seed tube or *naru* attached at sowing time; the *bakhar* or scarifier, with a transverse blade of iron across the share, for use in soft cloddy and *kans* grown ground; and the *patela* or *mai*, a long, heavy log dragged by oxen for breaking clods in very friable *mar* or in light soil tracts. The *kurpa* and the *hansiya* are hand tools for weeding and reaping.

Cultivated area. Owing to its large barren and unculturable area and its sparse population the cultivation of the district has never reached a very high development, and Jhansi has always well exceeded Lalitpur. In the former tract out of a total area of 878,563 acres, only 420,348 acres or 48 per cent. were cultivated in 1864, the year selected for the preparation of records at the first settlement. At the same period in Lalitpur 288,600 out of 1,213,022 acres were recorded as under the plough, making a percentage of less than 23. Cultivation fluctuates greatly, as elsewhere in Bundelkhand, but low as these percentages are, no great improvement on them has ever taken place. At the second settlement of Jhansi, between 1889 and 1892, the total area, now modified by interchange of villages with Gwalior, was returned at 923,146 acres, of which 385,810 acres or only 42 per cent. were cultivated. A few years later when the subdivision was resettled, its total area amounted to 1,153,874 and that under cultivation to 272,980 acres or less than 24 per cent. At the recent resettlement of the whole district, between 1903 and 1906, 723,018 acres or barely 33 per cent. of the total area of the district, including the Gursarai and Kakarwai estates but

excluding reserves and *runds*, were under the plough. This latter acreage may be considered normal. The proportions in the two parts of the district were 40·3 per cent. for Jhansi and 26·1 per cent. for Lalitpur. Among tahsils Mau had the largest percentage of cultivated to total area with 43 per cent in 1902-03, followed closely by Moth with 42 per cent: Garautha had nearly 40 per cent. and Jhansi 39. In Lalitpur the proportion in tahsil Mahroni was 25 per cent. and in tahsil Lalitpur 23 per cent., Balabehat being the pargana with the lowest acreage, where it did not exceed 12 per cent.

Culturable land. The areas of culturable land. particularly those falling under the head of fallow, are important in Bundelkhand and are extensive in this district. At the earliest settlements the proportion of culturable waste was 32 per cent. in Jhansi and 51 per cent. in Lalitpur. At the second settlements the percentages had risen to 41·5 and 62 respectively. In 1902-03 the recorded culturable areas measured 481,113 acres or 27 per cent. in Jhansi proper and 760,082 or 37 per cent. in the subdivision, a total of 1,241,195 acres for the entire district, out of which 713,367 acres came under the head of old and 197,977 acres under that of new fallow. Of this enormous area 194,810 acres were in the same year included within holdings. Owing to the general practice of lump renting most holdings include a certain proportion of fallow, which is necessary in the red soil and lighter tracts owing to the poorness of the soil, and in better land to leave a margin in case of a *kans* invasion or soil impoverishment. In good seasons a rapid extension of cultivation in these areas takes place, and the area of fallow not included in holdings may be cultivated too. The extension is never permanent and the rapid changes in the area of waste only emphasise the very fluctuating nature of cultivation in this portion of Bundelkhand. Among tahsils the culturable acreage out of cultivation is over 50 per cent. of the total area in Jhansi, over 40 per cent. in Mau and Moth, and closely approximates to the same figure in Garautha. In both tahsils of Lalitpur it exceeds 60 per cent., the highest proportion being in pargana Lalitpur and the lowest in Talbehat and Banpur.

A considerable area bears more than one crop in the year, a result of the greater use of irrigation in Jhansi than in other districts of Bundelkhand. The area fluctuates considerably, but there appears to have been a noteworthy increase. In Lalitpur the average area twice-cropped is fairly constant and well exceeds 40,000 acres, parganas Talbehat and Banpur far surpassing all others in this respect. In Jhansi proper the average area exceeds 20,000 acres, of which considerably over half is contributed by Jhansi tahsil itself, and nearly two-thirds of the remainder by Mau. In 1892 the total double-cropped area in Jhansi proper amounted to only 11,781 acres, a little over three per cent. of the total cultivated area. In Lalitpur the settlement figures were 34,327 acres or 12½ per cent. as against a previous quinquennial average of 43,327 acres. In 1902-03 these figures had increased to 23,039 and 41,626 acres, or 5 and 14 per cent. of the cultivated area respectively. Double-cropping is confined to land on which the first crop sown is rice, and to fields in which early millets and *zaid* crops are sown with the help of irrigation. There is little chance that the area will expand unless irrigation is developed or an extension of the area devoted to rice, wherever suitable soil is found, takes place. *Dofasli.*

The usual harvests are known by the names of *siaori* and *unhari*. The *zaid* harvest is of little importance. In 1902-03, a normal year, it amounted to only 3,424 acres, though the extent varies somewhat when it is necessary to supplement a deficient *rabi*. Of this area over one half, or 1,820 acres, belonged to the Lalitpur tahsil, 1,303 acres being contributed by the pargana of Talbehat. In Jhansi proper, the tahsil of the same name had the largest area with 689 acres, followed by pargana Banpur in Mahroni tahsil with 432 and tahsil Mau with 372 acres. As might be expected, the more distinctively black soil tahsils and parganas, namely Garautha, Moth, Mahroni and Madaora, contributed a very insignificant acreage. The chief crop grown is melons, which are raised in the neighbourhood of Jhansi city and Mau-Ranipur, but in Talbehat and Jhansi tahsils a large acreage is sown with *chena*, *sawan* and other early millets, while in all tahsils and parganas, except the black soil ones, vegetables cover an appreciable area. In addition to these, in Lalitpur Harvests.

Talbehat and Jhansi 370 acres were devoted to non-food crops. Less than 10 per cent. of the acreage is unirrigated, water being practically essential except for melons which are grown in dry sand beds near the rivers, and this restricts the bulk of the harvest to the red soil tracts where irrigation is plentiful and cheap, or to the neighbourhood of tanks and lakes. Of the two main harvests the *kharif* is by far the more important. At the two settlements during the last decade of the century it covered 487,740 acres or 68·61 of the total cropped area, as against 223,083 or 31·38 per cent. occupied by the *rabi*. Though the relative areas under both harvests are apt to fluctuate widely according to season the predominant position of the autumn crops has never been challenged, and during more recent years there has been a tendency to extend their acreage at the expense of *rabi*. For the four years from 1900 to 1903 the average proportion of *kharif* had increased to 71·2 per cent. Compared by tracts and tahsils the percentages vary greatly. In Jhansi proper the average *rabi* area during the same period has been 36·59 per cent. of the total area cropped, and the *kharif* percentage 63·41. Moth has 48·5 per cent. of its area under *rabi* crops and Garautha 41·4, per cent., but in the red soil tahsils of Jhansi and Mau the average proportion falls to 33·2 and 27·9 per cent. The district totals are much disturbed by Lalitpur: here the tahsil of the same name devotes on the average 81·1 per cent. of its area to *kharif* crops and tahsil Mahroni no less than 82·8 per cent., the corresponding *rabi* areas being only 18·8 and 17·1 per cent. respectively.

***Kharif* crops.**

If the two divisions of the district are compared, the larger proportion of inferior *kharif* crops such as the smaller millets is very noticeable in Lalitpur, and is partly due to the generally lower standard of cultivation in that subdivision, but chiefly to the much greater proportion of red soil in which these crops are grown: they consist for the most part of *kodon, phikar, kutki, rali* and *sawan*, and occupied in the subdivision an area of 126,808 acres at the settlement of 1896 and one of 89,025 at that of 1906, compared with 23,371 and 18,817 acres respectively at the two previous settlements in Jhansi proper. *Rali* and *phikar* are two varieties of the millet known as *chena* in the Doab, but are only grown as autumn crops, and *sawan*,

which occupies the smallest acreage of the five, is very similar to *phikar*. Generally at least 50 per cent. of the area covered by these millets is occupied by *kodon*. Of the total cropped area in the *kharif* 10 per cent. is devoted to this crop, the proportion being 6·8 per cent. in Jhansi proper and 21·8 per cent. in Lalitpur. It is rarely grown in *mar* or *moti*, but chiefly in *dumat* and to a less extent in *pathri*. Four varieties are recognised, called *bakhia*, *bhadenya*, *katharia* or *kudel* and *ladra*, of which the third is the most prolific and extensively grown. *Kodon.*

Juar is the great black soil staple. Alone or in combination with *arhar* and other crops, it covers on an average 119,310 acres or 26·7 per cent. of the total cropped and 37·5 of the total *kharif* area. The former figure rises to 42·2 per cent. in Mau, but falls to 23·3 per cent. in Jhansi, Mau and Garautha, holding an intermediate position with 30 per cent: in Lalitpur it does not exceed 20 per cent. The area has increased since settlement, when it amounted to 177,032 acres or 24·9 per cent., the increase being common to all tahsils, but Jhansi and Moth showing no substantial difference. *Juar* is generally grown alone on good black soils and under favorable conditions the outturn is magnificent: on light soils it is more frequently mixed with *arhar*, *bajra* and a variety of other crops, and excessive rain is liable to do much damage to it. Many varieties are recognised, those in the north not differing from the varieties found elsewhere in Bundelkhand. In Lalitpur the commonest and best is called *bedra* and has a small yellowish grain of good flavour, while other kinds that frequently occur are *bansmati*, *deola*, *dudhmogar* and *jhuns*: two varieties known as *domar* and *surari* or *gutna* are chiefly grown by Saherias as *dhaiya* crops. *Juar.*

Cotton is an absolutely insignificant crop in Lalitpur, and has lost its pre-eminence in the northern part of the district in common with the rest of Bundelkhand. It only occupies an average of 34,363 acres or 4·8 per cent. of the total cropped area. The only tahsils in which it is of any importance are Moth and Garautha, in the latter of which it covers an average of 13,854 acres or 13·5 per cent. and in the former an average of 7,642 acres or 10·1 per cent. Neither in Mau nor in Jhansi does it ever appear to have held a conspicuous position, and of the two Cotton.

tahsils just mentioned the proportion of the crop has remained unchanged in Moth since 1864, while in Garautha it appears to have increased from 9 per cent. in that year to 11 per cent. in 1892. In that tahsil half the quantity sown is usually sown alone and half is mixed with other crops, while in the other tahsils it is mostly, and in Lalitpur always, mixed.

Til. *Til* and *tili* are crops of some importance, covering an average area of 77,736 acres or 10·7 per cent. of the total cropped area. It has always been a favourite autumn crop in Lalitpur, but in Jhansi proper in 1864 it was almost unknown in Moth and occupied only 9,266 acres in Jhansi and Garautha. Since the settlements of 1892 and 1896 the proportion of the crop has remained unchanged in the subdivision and Jhansi tahsil, but increased from 4·8 to 9·5 per cent. in Mau, from 2·2 to 8·7 per cent. in Garautha and from 2·3 to 4·5 per cent. in Moth. Its extension has no doubt been stimulated by the large export trade in oil-seeds. *Til* and *tili* are usually sown on, but are not confined to, the lighter or less consistent soils such as *dumat* and *parua*: and it is planted as opportunity offers throughout the rainy season up to September. In connection with it, it may be noted that *ramtili* (*Guizotia Abyssinica*) or Niger seed is not infrequently grown in the subdivision on poor *pathri* soils, and is easily recognised by its yellow groundsel-like flowers.

Other *kharif* crops. Other *kharif* crops are not of much importance. *Bajra* does not cover an average of more than 5,915 acres, most of which is usually in Garautha and none in Lalitpur. Some 20,000 acres are annually occupied by early and late rice of various kinds, its cultivation being chiefly carried on in the red soil tracts of Mau and Jhansi tahsils and in Lalitpur. Several varieties are cultivated, that most widely grown being known in the subdivision as *khardana*. Another favourite kind is *sathia* or *chingi*, usually sown in April with the help of irrigation and reaped in June, its name being derived from the fact that it takes only 60 days to ripen. Most of the varieties are coarse and poor, and with the exception of *sathia* are sown in lowlying fields at the break of the rains to be cut in October in time to resow the land with *rabi*. Rice is also a favourite crop round the margin of lakes and tanks, where the uncultivated varieties

known as *bhilgi* and *pasai* grow spontaneously and furnish food to the poorest classes and Saherias. All classes consume it however at the festival of "Harchat,"* peculiar to this part of India. *Mung*, *urd* and *moth* are found in some 19,300 acres, 70 per cent. of which are usually in Lalitpur, and maize occupies about half the same area, nine-tenths again occurring in the sub-division. In the year of the recent settlement 592 acres were still recorded under sugarcane; in 1868 there were 1,086 acres of that crop in Lalitpur alone. The existence of stone presses, or *kolhuas*, lying scattered about over the district suggests that sugarcane was very much more extensively grown in former times than it is now. But it is unlikely that more was grown than was sufficient to supply home wants, and with the spread of railways the local product has been driven from the market. Of the 592 acres recorded 375 lay in Jhansi proper, and here the crop is grown with the help of irrigation, chiefly in Jhansi and Mau tahsils. The quality grown is inferior, and the juice is only used for making *gur*; the cuttings are called *bijburai*, and the canes *burai*. The once valuable *al* crop is all but extinct: the expenses of cultivation and the competition of aniline dyes have killed this industry, which used to play an important part in the manufacture of *kharua* cloth. *Al* used to be sown in the best soils only—usually *mar*: in the second year the plant produced its seeds and in the third the roots were gathered. The latter were dug up most carefully, the slenderest shoots called *bara* which strike deepest affording the best dye: these were cleared of earth, bound up in small bundles or chopped up in pieces, and then sold. The land was most carefully weeded and great precautions were taken to protect the plants from insects and vermin. In Moth, in the neighbourhood of Erachh, some inferior indigo is still grown; and there is a small acreage

* Held on the 6th day of the dark half of *Chait* in honour of Baldeoji or Balaram. One Raja Kansa, whose tyranny caused his subjects great suffering, was threatened with that from the hand of a son of his sister Deoki, wife of Basdeo. She and her child however escaped the guards placed over her and hid herself in the jungle under *cheola* trees and *kans* grass. For lack of other food she was forced to live on *pasai* grain. Accordingly on this festival only *pasai* grain with *ghi* and buffalo milk is eaten. A square yard of ground is plastered over with buffalo dung and a figure of a woman is fashioned out of *pasai* flour, to which offerings of *kans* and *cheola* blossoms are made.

everywhere under *san*, whose fibre is locally used. Garden crops including vegetables and spices cover a small area in all tahsils, but are of some importance in Jhansi and Talbebat.

Rabi crops.

The area under pure wheat was at one time considerable, and one of the most significant changes in recent years has been the diminution of the area sown with it. In Jhansi proper it is very largely mixed with gram, but in Lalitpur it is usually grown alone. The average area sown from 1887 to 1890 was 74,655 acres, of which 63,096 acres were in Lalitpur. The rusts of 1893-94 and 1894-95 followed by two years of famine struck a blow from which the culivation of the crop has not yet recovered. From 1898 to 1901 the average area planted was only 23,041 acres. Some improvement however has since taken place, and during the last normal year on record, 1906-07, the area has risen to 39,887 acres, Lalitpur contributing 28,136 acres of the total. In Jhansi proper the red soil parganas Mau and Jhansi are responsible for 10,788 acres of the remainder, leaving a very insignificant area for Moth and Garautha. In these latter, the black soil, parganas wheat is generally found in combination with gram, the average acreage of the mixed crop being 24,944 acres or 3·4 per cent. of the total cropped area. In Moth the proportion rises to 15·5 per cent., but in the two tahsils of the subdivision there is less than one per cent. of the mixed crop. On the other hand Lalitpur had during the same period an average of 19,546 acres or 6·4 per cent. of the total cropped area covered with wheat and barley, intermixed, this combination attaining exactly the same proportion in Jhansi tahsil of the district proper, but being unappreciable elsewhere. Wheat thus alone or in combination with gram and barley occupies 11 ·02 per cent. of the total and 38·3 per cent. of the *rabi* cropped area of the district. On black soils the variety almost universally planted is the red *kathia* wheat, which is extremely susceptible to rust, while on irrigated land the white or *pisiya*, variety is generally grown.

Gram.

The only other *rabi* crop of any importance is gram. It normally occupies 15·0 per cent. of the total cropped area and 52·1 per cent. of the total *rabi* area. In Moth and Garautha, where the area of combined wheat and gram is also largest, the former figure rises to 30·7 and 33·5 per cent. respectively: in

Jhansi tahsil it is 8·8 per cent. and in the subdivision less than 6 per cent. The crop is too well known to need description.

Other *Rabi* crops.

Barley, alone or in combination with gram, generally occupies a small acreage and a small area is generally devoted to *mattar*, *masur* and *alsi*, which are always grown in combination with other crops: *sarson* or mustard is in Lalitpur sown directly the rain ceases and is often cut early enough to enable another *rabi* crop to be planted on the same land. *Pan* deserves a passing notice. There are extensive *pan* gardens at Pali in pargana Balabehat, which are estimated to bring in Rs. 1,288 annually in rent. The produce is famous and forms one of the few articles of export from the subdivision. The *pan* vine requires great care and attention with abundance of water and manure, and is protected from frost as well as from the scorching rays of the sun by a trellis work of bamboos overlaid with matting. The gardens are known as *barehja* and the cultivators are called Barehs or Tamolis. There are *pan* gardens also at Banpur, which have lately been restarted.

Pan.

Cost and outturn.

The average cost of cultivation per acre for the chief staples grown in the district is between Rs. 3 and Rs. 4 for the smaller millets, between Rs. 5 and Rs. 9 for *juar*, between Rs. 6 and Rs. 12 for wheat and gram, and about Rs. 10 for barley. When however the *rabi* staples are grown on *dumat* or *pathri* soils where manure and irrigation are needed the expenses of cultivation rarely come to less than Rs. 12 or Rs. 14, according to the intensity of the husbandry. Approximately five seers of seed per acre are needed in the case of the smaller millets and *juar*, rising to eight in the case of *kodon*, seventy to eighty for wheat, fifty to seventy for barley and forty to seventy for gram, according to the nature of the soil. The estimated average yield per acre for the same staples is eight to ten maunds of *phikar*, four to five of *rali*, twelve to sixteen of *kodon*, eight to nine of *juar*, five to twelve of wheat, the same for barley, and between four and eight of gram. These estimates however are only approximate and the average outturn varies very greatly according to the soil, and whether the crop has been irrigated or not.

Irrigation.

Irrigation is a factor of very varying importance in the different parts of the district. In the black soil area it is practically non-existent except in a few *parua* villages, and the proportion of irrigation to cultivation is only 2·70 per cent. in Jhansi proper and 2·48 per cent. in Lalitpur. In the red soil tract, excluding that to the south-east of Lalitpur, the conditions are very different, as the better crops can only be grown with the aid of irrigation, and the irrigated and fenced *tareta* is the mainstay of every village. In this tract the proportion of irrigation to cultivation is 21·49 per cent. in Jhansi and 23·3 per cent. in northern Lalitpur. In the red soil tract to the south-east of Lalitpur the conditions are different, as wells are few in number and mostly yield a scanty supply of water, so that the area under better crops is very small and the proportion of irrigation to cultivation falls to 8·4 per cent. If the two portions of the district are taken as a whole the proportion in Jhansi proper is 6·5 per cent. and that in Lalitpur 12 per cent., or 8·8 per cent. for the entire district. Since the district assumed its present form there has been but little change in this proportion, Jhansi showing the unimportant increase of 1 per cent. and Lalitpur of even less. The directly irrigated area will probably expand to some extent in the future. The popular recognition of the importance of irrigation is clear from the fact that in Jhansi proper 415 new wells have been constructed since 1891, and 1,213 of the small Lalitpur type in that subdivision: and the systematic work now being undertaken by the Irrigation department in repairing and renewing broken-down tanks should largely increase the area irrigated from this source. On the other hand it is only in villages which possess a very good tank that the area served is absolutely protected in years of drought, as the supply is shortest when it is most wanted; while in villages without a tank a large number of the wells give out too soon to be of much assistance for the spring harvest. In comparing proportionate figures of irrigation, however, it must be remembered that there is much soil which normally does not need water to bring at least one crop to maturity, and the indirect importance of the smaller tanks which admit of the cultivation of their beds, when the water recedes or is

drawn off, is very great. In black soil and ravine tracts, moreover, the place of irrigation is taken to some extent, by field embankments, a type of protection which commends itself very strongly to the people and retains the surface rainfall, besides checking *kans* and erosion. The area protected from the worst effects of drought is therefore considerable but capable of very great extension.

History of irrigation. The history of irrigation-works in the district shows a record of many vicissitudes. Neglecting the more ancient works of the Chandels and Bundelas, it will be sufficient to commence with the British occupation of the district. Under the Maratha rule a considerable amount of attention had been paid to irrigation because of their system of direct collections, but a long period of weak administration of the Jhansi state and of consequent internal troubles had allowed many of the older works to fall into disrepair. On the assumption of direct administration by the British but little attention was paid to the subject and a separate Bundelkhand irrigation department was abolished in 1862. Mr. Jenkinson when deputy commissioner urged its importance and in 1866 drew up a list of 142 existing tanks capable of repair and 39 new projects. Owing mainly to his energy and to the occurrence of famine in 1868 the large lakes of Pachwara and Magarwara were constructed but with little supervision, and improvements were made to those at Kachneh, Barwa Sagar, Koncha-Bhanwan, Babina and Bijaigarh, while all the lakes and lakelets wore thoroughly examined with a view to possibilities of irrigation from them. In 1872, as a result of these enquiries, the five lakes of Arjar, Barwa Sagar, Pachwara, Kachneh and Magarwara were placed under the charge of the Irrigation department, but later in 1877 the special Bundelkhand division was abolished and the other tanks were placed under the charge of the district engineer of Jhansi in subordination to the superintending engineer, 2nd circle, Irrigation branch. In 1879 the Government recognised that little return could be looked for from these works in direct irrigation, but that their extension and improvement was worth carrying out on general grounds; and in the following year all tanks were placed under the control of the district

engineer in subordination to the superintending engineer, buildings and roads branch. A series of annual grants was made up to 1885, allowing of the repair of 21 tanks; but the military requirements of that year checked further expenditure in this direction, and only two small tanks appear to have been constructed between 1886 and 1891. In 1889, when the completion of the Indian Midland railway had rendered it possible, the restoration of the four large lakes to the control of the executive engineer of the Betwa canal was decided on, and carried out in the following year, the other tanks remaining as before under that of the district authorities. In connection with the framing of the records-of-rights at settlement the whole question of the ownership and management of the Jhansi lakes was reopened in 1892. It was then found that, whatever the previous arrangements had been, the four large lakes were under the control of the Irrigation department, 25 smaller lakes under that of the commissioner of the Jhansi division with the executive engineer of the Public Works department as his executive agent, 4 others namely Arjar, Kaiya, Raja Tal at Babina, and Koncha-Bhanwan were classed as under the district board, and one (the Bakshi Tal at Babina) appertained to the Forest department. The commissioner appears to have held the anomalous position of being the authority who exercised the initiative in questions connected with the restoration of tanks, superseding the district officer in the matter, making his own proposals and getting them prepared and finally carried out by the executive engineer. Whatever advantages this arrangement may have had before, it certainly had none after the district was merged in the Allahabad commissionership in 1891. It was finally decided in 1893 to leave all the lakes and tanks,* with the exception of the four larger ones, in the hands of the collector and his district engineer,

* Babina (Bakshi Tal and Raja Tal), Dhikauli, Garhia (two tanks), Jhansi (Antia Tal, Dharamsala, and Lachhmi Tal), Sheorao-Sagar, Koncha-Bhanwan, Pichor, Palipahari, in tahsil Jhansi; Arjar, Bamhori, Baragaon, Bijaigarh, Balkhera, Chhurara, Ghurat, Kharon, Kishni Buzurg, Kunja (two tanks), Nawada, Palra, Rewan, Roni, Siaori, Sijari, in tahsil Mau; Asta, Barwar, Bhasneh, Dakhnesar, Dugara, Haibatpur, Markuan and Parsua, in tahsil Garautha; Bilahri-Kharki, Sagauli, Khoh, Jaswantpura and Pipra, in tahsil Moth; Bangawan Kalan, Talbehat (Gajora Tal and Urwan or Piprai Tal), Bant and Dudhai, in Lalitpur; and Mahroni, Guna, Madaora and Raksa in tahsil Mahroni.

and they thus remained till 1905, when their management was finally transferred to the officer in charge of the special Tanks division of the Irrigation department formed in 1905. The famine of 1896-97 and the scarcity of 1900 directed attention to the subject of protective irrigation works, and with the formation of that division steady progress in the construction of new works set in: a large number of projects have been investigated and prepared; and, under the arrangements now in force, these will be carried out by the department, subject to an agreement by the landholders either to pay 4 per cent. on Government outlay, or a lump sum per annum, calculated on an estimate of the acreage improved directly or indirectly by the tanks, and liable to quinquennial revision with the land revenue, or fixed rates on a similarly estimated area.

Sources of supply.

The sources of supply are various but canals do not play an important part in the irrigation practised in the district. The Betwa canal provides for a certain amount of irrigation but only in the black soil tracts of Moth, where cultivators are averse to taking water. This prejudice has only partially been overcome. The most important source of irrigation is wells. Out of a total irrigated area of 63,986 acres at the settlements of 1892 and 1896, 56,994 acres or 89 per cent. were irrigated from that source: of this area 22,963 acres belonged to Jhansi proper, Mau and Jhansi tahsils contributing the bulk, and 34,031 to Lalitpur. This area is supplemented by that watered from tanks. This includes both direct irrigation from the larger lakes and those cases where water is raised from shallow wells dug at the margin of a tank. Of direct irrigation from rivers and *nalas*, there is necessarily very little, as the channels of the streams are too deep and the banks are too precipitous for lift or flow. In a few places however, as at Nihona and Koncha-Bhanwan, both in tahsil Jhansi, streams are dammed; the water is thus diverted for irrigation and is raised by means of a *khanch*; this consists of a deep excavation in the bank of the stream communicating by a channel with its water, which is raised by a Persian wheel or by bullock power.

Water level.

The character of the wells depends largely on the depth at which water is found below the surface. This varies in different

parts of the district. The undulating nature of the rock strata and the varying thickness of the softer soil deposits cause water to be found at all sorts of depths from 10 feet in the red soil central tract to 70 feet or more in the outlying parts of Moth. In the rocky red soil areas water can generally be tapped near enough to the surface for the use of the Persian wheel. As one goes north the wells get deeper, and they are deepest of all in the villages lying on the high banks of the Betwa and Dhasan. In the neighbourhood of the Betwa canal the spring level has been rising in a marked degree. The difference varies according to the nature of the subsoil, but in five villages where observations were taken the average depth of water from the surface had risen in six years from 31·60 to 20·73 feet. In the Lalitpur subdivision the average depth is 22 feet, but here again it is as variable as in Jhansi proper. In the neighbourhood of lakes and tanks, again, the water level is higher and the supply more constant than at a distance or than in those villages which do not possess a lake or tank.

Wells.

The facilities for digging wells is greater in Lalitpur than in Jhansi. There *kachcha* wells can be dug for Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 if no blasting is required, and they will last from two to six years. They are usually however lined with small baked bricks set in mud, a process which entails an outlay of some Rs. 50 but ensures stability for many years. In the hilly tracts of Jhansi the cylinders are nearly always formed either of bricks or stones collected from the hills. The art of *gola* sinking is unknown. In the black soil tracts the great expense of digging necessitates the protection of all wells by masonry, which adds enormously to the outlay: such substantial works cannot be accomplished for less than Rs. 300. Earthen wells here are at a discount, being represented by an occasional water hole dug in the bank of a stream or bed of a lake and worked by the *dhenkli* or by hand. Where the water level is fairly high and wood abundant, as it is in most parts of Lalitpur, water is raised by the Persian wheel called *rahat* or *rehat*: elsewhere the ordinary leathern bucket drawn by oxen is employed. The former, which consists of a chain of *gharras* fastened to a wooden wheel set revolving by means of rough wooden cogs propelled by bullocks,

is the more usual, but it is occasionally worked like a tread-mill by the hands and feet of a man who sits over it. The number of wells has greatly increased in recent years, and the area irrigated from this source has risen from 49,760 acres at the previous settlements to 56,964 acres at that of 1906. Of the 1,628 new wells built during the same period over two-thirds were found in the subdivision, for the most part in parganas Talbehat, Bansi and Banpur, while of the remainder three-fourths lie in Jhansi and Mau tahsils. The average area irrigated from a well is three acres, the comparative lowness of the area being due to the smaller amount of water raised by the Persian wheel in comparison with the leathern bucket; but the cost of irrigating by the latter method is greater and it requires strong cattle, unless the size of the bucket is proportionately reduced. The average cost of watering one acre once may be estimated at Re. 1-8-0 to Rs. 2-0-0 according to the method employed.

Lakes and tanks.

The average acreage watered from lakes and tanks is 3,749 acres. Their construction and appearance has already been described. The four large lakes of Barwa Sagar, Kachneh, Magarwara and Pachwara are under the management of the Irrigation department and are fitted with a proper system of sluices and distributaries which guarantee economy in the use of water. In the large number of lakes and tanks managed by private proprietors different methods for utilisation of the water are employed, and there is always a tendency to waste. In many cases direct irrigation is carried on from the tank through a sluice called *serar* provided for that purpose. The prevailing form of sluice is a series of holes in the dam insufficiently stopped by plugs of wood, from which there is considerable leakage. When water, instead of being let off by the sluice for cultivation below the embankment, is required for higher land around the lake it is conveyed by digging a shallow well and raising the water by the Persian wheel, by the laborious swing of a wicker basket called *daulia*, or by means of the scarcely less laborious *chahat*. The latter is a hollow tree trunk or an old dug-out canoe with one end removed and weighted, and is worked on a pivot, one end dipping into the water below and then being suddenly raised so as to shoot water through the other end into

the field above. With tank irrigation is generally included that from "other sources," the nature of which has been already indicated. The average area so irrigated amounts throughout the district to 582 acres only. The tank irrigated area is a fairly constant acreage, but that from "other sources" varies considerably and in dry years, when every effort is made to bring crops to maturity, it rises very high. Thus in 1895 it rose to 1,024 acres, and in the normal season of 1898 fell to only 242.

Canal irrigation. Under this head is included the areas watered by the Betwa canal and by the small distributaries from the Barwa Sagar, Kachneh, Pachwara and Magarwara lakes. The average area irrigated from these sources is 2,806 acres, but the actual acreage is subject to great variations. In 1894-95 only 1,100 acres were irrigated from canals, but in 1896-97 the area rose to 3,934 acres, the increase being due almost entirely to extended irrigation from the Betwa canal.

The Betwa canal. The construction of a canal from the Betwa river was first advocated by Captain (afterwards Major-General) Strachey, R. E., in 1855, and an establishment provided to investigate the subject perished in the Mutiny. The question was taken up after the restoration of order and examined by Lieutenant Home, R.E., who in 1868 submitted a preliminary report establishing the practicability of a canal to water the tract lying between the Pahuj, Betwa and Jumna rivers. Subsequently the same officer made a detailed project for the construction of a canal carrying a maximum *kharif* supply of 1,000 cusecs with a depth of 8¼ feet, to be taken out from the river near the village of Parichha. The length of the weir crest recommended was 2,426 feet, with a height of 25 feet above the bed of the river in the lowest part; and the roughly estimated cost of the whole scheme was Rs. 19,29,246. In 1869 the matter was exhaustively investigated by Lieutenant Bagge, R. E., who made much more ambitious proposals, the cost of which, including that of reservoir dams, amounted to nearly 90 lakhs. Omitting the cost of the head weir and two reservoir dams, this project would have absorbed 36 lakhs, the difference being attributable to a more complete development, the necessity of providing navigation and to heavy expenditure in crossing

drainage. Two weirs were contemplated under the scheme, one at Khurd and the other at Ghusgaon: the latter is the lowest of the four rocky barriers which cross the channel of the Betwa between Nohat *ghat*, where the river debouches from hilly country, and a point 17 miles lower down. In 1872, after a visit from Sir William Muir, the question was again brought up; fresh surveys were undertaken by Mr. Richardson and Lieutenant Dyce, R. E., and Lieutenant Bagge's project was examined by Mr. Anderson. As a result of these investigations a fresh estimate, amounting to some 40 lakhs on the lines of Lieutenant Home's original proposals fixing the weir at Parichha, was prepared and submitted to tne Government of India. The differences of opinion, however, on the financial aspects of the scheme were considerable, and a lengthy correspondence ensued between the Supreme Government on the one hand and the Local Government and its various officers on the other regarding the practicability of irrigating *mar* and kindred matters; and in the course of the discussion the whole question of irrigation in Bundelkhand, including that of the tanks and lakes as well as that of water rates, came under review. It was not till 1881 that, under the then newly adopted policy of constructing protective as distinct from remunerative works, the Betwa canal estimate received its final sanction.

The Parichha weir.

Work was commenced in 1881 and completed in 1885. The headworks of the canal are situated in *mauza* Khurd near the village of Parichha in the *jagir* of Tori Fatehpur, 14 miles from Jhansi. The weir which dams the river at this point is a solid structure of rubble masonry, impounding 1,700 million cubic feet of water. It extends across the rocky bed of the river on a curved alignment, divided into two portions by an island, and has a total length of 4,261 feet, the crest being 631·8 feet above sea level and on an average 25 feet above the normal level of the river channel. Its total cost was Rs. 4,79,843, and it converts the river for some 17 miles above into a stately stretch of water. The necessity of providing further storage was demonstrated by the scarcity of water in the famine of 1896, and in 1897 proposals were made for erecting shutters on the crest of the weir. In 1898 the estimate for these, amounting to Rs. 1,53,081, was sanctioned, and a line of shutters 6 feet high was fixed upon

the weir, which increased the storage of the reservoir to 2,420 million cubic feet.

The canal. On the left flank of the weir are the under-sluices, at right angles to which lie the canal gates, the chief object of the former being to prevent the accumulation of silt at this point. The main canal runs parallel to the Jhansi-Cawnpore road for 12 miles at a considerable depth below the level of the surrounding country. At the village of Pulia, in Samthar state, 4 miles north-west of Moth town, it approaches nearer the surface and bifurcates into two branches, called respectively the Hamirpur and the Kuthaund, whose directions are sufficiently indicated by their names. The total cost of the canal amounted approximately to Rs. 42,00,000, but it has so far never been remunerative. It was first opened for irrigation in September 1885; but where irrigation is feasible within the boundaries of this district the soil is *mar* and *kabar*, and in these soils irrigation is not generally practised. The extent, however, to which water is utilised depends entirely on the season: for many years after its construction but little advantage was taken of it. In 1905-06, 2,101 acres were irrigated from it in this district, compared with only 34 after the good monsoon of 1906-07. A new distributary has recently been made to irrigate the area between Pulia and Moth town.

The Dhukwan weir. The necessity of supplementing the meagre river supply of water by a second reservoir had been foreseen by Lieutenant Bagge and his successors; but the small extent to which the water of the canal was utilised in its earlier years did not force the question to the front, and it was only after 1896 and the subsequent dry years that occurred, combined with the development of irrigation, that the provision of further storage was found to be essential. The site at Dhukwan had from the first been selected as the best for a second reservoir, and work was commenced there in 1904. The weir which dams the river at Dhukwan has a length of 3,924 feet, is flanked by earthen embankments which connect it with the hills on either side, and has a maximum height of 50 feet above the river bed. The impounded water is estimated to amount to 2,434 million cubic feet, but the capacity has been increased to 3,759 million cubic feet by the erection of 383 eight-feet shutters on the crest. The reservoir thus formed

will extend some 13 miles up the river and in places be over a mile in width. The weir has been designed to pass a maximum flood discharge of 652,000 cusecs, and work on the masonry portion was completed in the autumn of 1908: the shutters were erected during the following year. The estimated outlay on the work is Rs. 23,98,321; and the increased supply of water should ensure the protection of a large tract of country, though little benefit will accrue to the Jhansi district.

The Pahuj-Garhmau canals.

The village of Garhmau lies in the north of Jhansi tahsil near the Great Indian Peninsula railway, close to which is a triangular tract of country, surrounded on all sides by hills, covering 2·25 square miles in area. On the eastern side there exist three deep and two comparatively higher gaps in the chain of hills, all of which had been for many years closed by earthen embankments, forming three separate small tanks, one near the village of Palar, another near that of Garhmau, and a third near the railway station. The situation of the hills however is such that the enclosed valley is capable of containing a far larger volume of water than could ever find its way into it owing to the restricted catchment area. In 1905 it was proposed to augment the supply by damming a *nala*, two miles to the west, and cutting a feeder channel to the valley from it. The catchment area of the *nala* above the point from which the diversion starts is 12 square miles, and an embankment on the northern flank of channel was proposed in addition to catch the rainfall over 1·14 square miles of country between the *nala* and the valley. It was estimated that the storage in the reservoir would be increased thereby from 96 to 336 million cubic feet, spread over an area of 935 acres or 1½ square miles, and be capable of directly irrigating 3,800 acres as well as submerging 765 acres of land which would be available for *rabi* cultivation after the water had been drawn off. The scheme contemplated, besides the feeder channel, the construction of a masonry dam in the narrow gap near Palar village, and the raising and improvement of the two existing dams at Garhmau, as well as of that near the railway station, and the provision of a weir 500 feet long on the *nala*. For irrigation two branches or distributaries and two minors with a total length of 23 miles were to be built, and the total cost of the scheme was

estimated at Rs. 67,125. Work was commenced on the project in the summer of 1906 in connection with famine relief, but before it was completed a larger and combined scheme was advocated. The latter contemplated the erection of a dam on the Pahuj river, south of the crossing of the Agra branch of the Great Indian Peninsula railway, which would form sufficient storage not only for a small canal along the right bank of that river, but also admit of a supply to the Garhmau reservoir, sufficient to ensure the irrigation of the whole tract commanded. The catchment area available on the Pahuj amounts to 120 square miles, and the storage capacity of the reservoir is estimated at 796 million cubic feet, while an additional 200 million cubic feet are available from some submergence tanks within the Pahuj catchment, whose water will be passed off into that stream in time for utilisation during the *rabi*. Including the acreage irrigable from the Garhmau reservoir the cultivated area commanded by the whole system is estimated at 36,943 acres, out of which 13,500 acres will normally be irrigated in the *rabi* in addition to some 5,000 acres of rice during the *kharif*. Altogether about 75 miles of channels are proposed and the estimated cost of the complete project is Rs. 8,65,040. Work was commenced in the spring of 1908—a year, it may be remarked, in which the rainfall was plentiful enough to fill the tank, without any water from the Pahuj.

Barwa Sagar.

The Barwa Sagar is situated 12 miles to the east of Jhansi. It is formed by a fine masonry embankment nearly three-quarters of a mile in length, at the extremity of which lie the ruins of a picturesque old fort. It was constructed or else extended and restored by Raja Udet Singh of Orchha between the years 1705 and 1737 A.D. Canal distributaries were constructed from it by Mr. Clarke, an officer of the old Irrigation department abolished in 1862. In 1872 Rs. 5,041 were spent by the Government in repairs to it under the superintendence of the local authorities, who continued to look after it till 1890 when, together with Kachnch, Magarwara and Pachwara, it was put under the superintendence of the Irrigation department. The capacity of the lake is estimated to be 329,804,000 cubic feet capable of irrigating 3,747 acres, the catchment area being a good one and extending over 73·24 square miles. The total length of

distributaries is 14½ miles, and the average area irrigated from it, which varies greatly, is 972 acres.

Kachneh lake. The Kachneh lake is situated 4 miles south of the Nowgong road between Arjar and Ranipur. It is said to have been excavated nearly 1,000 years ago by one of the Chandel Rajas, and the present dam is said to have been built by Raja Bir Singh Deo of Orchha about A.D. 1600. It was provided with irrigation channels by Mr. Clarke at the same time as Barwa Sagar and remained under the district authorities like that lake till 1890, Rs. 5,838 having been spent on special repairs in 1870. The storage basin of the lake is estimated to hold 158,393,500 cubic feet of water, but it has a very small catchment area covering 5·63 miles only. Its distributaries extend over 13 miles, and the average area irrigated is only 650 acres.

Kadim Abpashi. The Kachneh and Barwa Sagar lakes are subject to what is known as the *haq kadim abpashi*. This arose as follows. The old settlements under native rule had been made with reference to the free use of water by those cultivating the lands where it could be utilised, the rental being merely increased by the advantage of irrigation. The difficulty arose under British rule that the landholder would be compelled to pay a water rate over and above the revenue fixed on a consolidated rent and water rate, and with regard to tenants that their rents fixed on the basis of the consolidated demand would be increased by the amount of water rate. Accordingly in 1864 Mr. Muir laid down that the fields paying this consolidated rental should be considered "prescriptive" irrigation and be exempt from water rate. The list of such fields is carefully kept and revised, and at the settlement of 1892 they were assessed as irrigated land paying full rents, the net result being that the Government instead of receiving from the cultivator the full price of the water shares this price with the landholders, who are allowed to appropriate half the enhanced rental. The privileged fields have a prior right to receive water, after which the surplus is available for supply to other land on payment of water rate. The surplus so available is not large, especially in the case of Kachneh, nor is the remaining irrigable land extensive; and the policy of the villagers is to grow *rabi* crops on the privileged fields, reserving the others

for *kharif* crops, for which they can generally dispense with the necessity of water. Between 1904 and 1906, out of an average of 1,622 acres irrigated from these lakes, 943 were *kadim abpashi.* The lands situated on the margins or in the beds of the two lakes and cultivated, whether by irrigation by lift from the lake or otherwise, are also exempt from the payment of water rate and have been assessed on the same principles.

Pachwara lake.

The Pachwara lake was constructed by Mr. Sturt, assistant commissioner, and Colonel Brownlow, R. E., secretary to Government in the Public Works department, in 1868 and the following years, "all the necessary levelling being done with an old level (and) the design prepared in three or four days." Including irrigation channels the work cost Rs. 38,075. In 1875-76 an aqueduct, new head sluices and new canals were constructed, the old low-level canals having been found defective. Repairs and maintenance were carried on by the district staff till 1890, when the lake was put under the Irrigation department. The storage of the lake is estimated as 279,107,600 cubic feet, covering a surface area of 29,962,400 square feet which forms the Government *mahal* of Rajpura, the land being owned by the Government. The lake has a catchment area of 12·44 square miles and is capable of irrigating 3,372 acres. The average area irrigated from it is 691 acres, situated in the villages of Pachwara, Gairaha, Sanaura, Kakwara, Siaori and Bihta, the length of the distributaries being 8½ miles.

The Magarwara lake.

The Magarwara lake lies between the railway and the metalled road to the north of Kachneh. The dam was built by famine labour in 1868-69 at a cost of Rs. 19,309. The lake was managed in the same way as the other larger lakes till 1890, when it was placed under the control of the Irrigation department. The capacity of the lake is estimated at 101,291,400 cubic feet, and it is provided with nearly 12 miles of distributaries which irrigate an average area of 127 acres situated in the villages of Sowaro, Bangra, Dhawa and Chirkana. The catchment area of the lake is 2·79 square miles and its water is capable of irrigating 1,156 acres.

Famines.

The district with its peculiar soils and deficient irrigation is peculiarly dependent on the periodical rains, and very sensitive

to droughts. Of early famines we have no record. That of 1783, known throughout this part of India as the *chalisa*, however, still lingers in the memory of the people, and those of 1833, 1837 and 1847-48 were all severely felt in the district, which was then not included in the British possessions. The rapidity with which scarcities and famines follow one another in this tract has given rise to a saying that one may be expected every fifth year.

Famine of 1868-69. The first great famine of which any accurate account has been kept was that of 1868-69. It is probably the severest that has ever afflicted the district, and is locally known as the *pachisa* from the *sambat* year 1925. Not only were the crops to a large extent either not sown or when sown destroyed but extraneous circumstances rendered relief measures very difficult. Less than 14 inches of rain in all fell against a normal of nearly 40, and of this quantity 8 inches came in July: August was almost entirely dry, and the 2 inches which fell in September were too late to save the *kharif* and quite insufficient to secure the *rabi*. The district thus partially deprived of its food stock was visited with severe floods in July 1869. Roads and bridges were destroyed, and the former, passing as they largely did over black soil and not being metalled, became impassable. An absolute food famine occurred in Jhansi and its environs, and starvation was only staved off by the action of the authorities in importing Rs. 10,000 worth of food grains into the town. The most severely affected parts were naturally the red soil tracts, except where irrigation existed: the black soil both in Jhansi and Lalitpur raised a diminished but valuable area of *kharif*; the *rabi* was less than half the average. Early measures were adopted for the relief of the starving poor. In September 1868 a local committee was convened, and operations began by the establishment of a poorhouse at Jhansi in the same month: in Lalitpur charitable relief was first doled out, but by September 11th the Government sanctioned Rs. 15,173 for expenditure on six works. As October and November passed rainless the distress became more acute: relief works on a large scale were opened in both portions of the district. During these three months an average

of 2,284 persons were daily relieved at the Jhansi poorhouse: but in December another was opened at Mau, and in February of the following year two more were established at Barwa Sagar and Babina, and subsequently others at Koncha-Bhanwan, Bhander and Kattar. Thirteen works were undertaken in Jhansi proper for the employment of the able-bodied, the chief of these being irrigation embankments at Pachwara and Magarwara, the construction of a road from Babina over the Betwa *viâ* Sirasghat, and the making of cuttings and bridges on the Saugor road. The daily average of persons on these works rose from 58 in September to 1,593 in January, 3,685 in September and 7,509 in April. In the first fortnight of May the attendance fell off slightly only to rise again till the beginning of July. In Lalitpur, which was then a separate district, poorhouses were opened at Talbehat, Bansi, Banpur, Lalitpur, Mahroni, Jakhlon, Dongra and Patna. Relief works were started in September and took the form of tank excavation, the largest being located at Raksa, Kalianpura, Kakarua and Bant. At the outset the general average attending was 1,670 persons: this rose to 18,620 in January and remained at over 20,000 during February. The demand for labour at the harvest reduced the number, but during April an average of 18,612 labourers received relief every day. In July only 1,450 remained. Among other employments arranged for the infirm a *dhoti* factory was established at Lalitpur, which supplied clothes for the paupers in the poorhouses, and by this means 343 girls and 6,895 women were clothed at an outlay of Rs. 1,000. Over the whole district relief works remained open for 13 months and employed 3,154,022 labourers at a cost of Rs. 2,78,933. During the same period, extending in the case of Jhansi to November, the poorhouses relieved 1,093, 948 persons at a cost of Rs. 77,884 in Jhansi proper, and 1,098,495 persons at a cost of Rs. 61,443 in Lalitpur. Land revenue to the amount of Rs. 1,77,659 was suspended and Rs. 2,67,760 were distributed in *taqavi*. In spite of all these measures the district suffered terribly. At the census of 1872 the population was found to have fallen by 12·42 per cent., a large part of the decrease being ascribed to emigration to Malwa, which is still the Canaan of the Bundelkhandi. The estimated number of cattle in Lalitpur was

233,947, and of these 95,543 or 41 per cent. were reckoned to have died. The famine commission of 1878-79 recorded with regard to Jhansi and Lalitpur "the two districts have never since that year recovered their prosperity."

Famine of 1895-96.

Such was the great *pachisa*: but for nearly 20 years the district did not suffer from any inordinate drought. In 1872-73 there was a shortage of rain and some uneven distress, but in 1877-78 the anticipations of famine made in August and September were belied by excellent rain in October and November which secured the spring harvest. In that year a poorhouse alone was opened for indigent immigrants in Lalitpur, and in Jhansi the dryness of the season was reckoned a blessing in that it checked the growth of *kans* which for six years had been making great headway. The season in 1894-95 was characterized by excessive rainfall which rotted the *kharif*, delayed *rabi* sowings and gave a great impetus to *kans*. Both in that year and the preceding the wheat crop was destroyed by rust, and some damage was done in the latter year by hail. The season of 1895-96 opened with abundant rain, which practically ceased at the end of August. Prices had been continually high since the spring and rose at once when there was no longer promise of a *rabi*. Garautha, northern Mau and southern Lalitpur were the parts most affected. The distress did not however become acute till January 1896, and arrangements to cope with it commenced in the beginning of February. On the first of the month two test works were opened, one on the Mahroni-Madaora road in Lalitpur, and the other on the Mau-Punchh road near Gursarai. These works were regularly carried on till April 1st. Meanwhile, on March 19th, another work was commenced on the Bangaria-Balabehat road in Lalitpur; on the 24th tank excavation was begun at Bamhori, and on the 30th earthwork was initiated on the Mau-Garautha road. Poorhouses were opened at Lalitpur and Garautha, and from April 1st all large works were handed over to the Public Works department and became regular relief works. Altogether 2,621,479 units, averaging 17,361 per day, were relieved at a cost of Rs. 1,41,634; of this number 2,241,494 were actively employed. Besides these works a large number of tanks, wells and embankments were repaired or constructed

under the control of the district officer at a total cost of Rs. 19,855, and giving employment to a daily average of 1,725 persons. In the poorhouses 101,759 units or 547 per day were provided for at a cost of Rs. 7,679.

Famine of 1896-97. The rains set in well in June 1896 and all relief works were closed down by the middle of July; but the poorhouses at Garautha and Lalitpur remained open and contained 458 inmates on September 1st. The rainfall continued abundant till the end of August and then ceased. An unusually large area had been sown with *kharif* crops, which, with the exception of the early millets, were much injured by the early cessation of the rain and the recrudescence of hot west winds. The *rabi* sowings were greatly restricted and in October the pinch of scarcity began to be felt, and was accentuated by the high prices of staple grains, wheat selling at the end of September at 9 *sers* 4 *chhataks* and gram at 11 *sers* 6 *chhataks* per rupee. Another poorhouse was opened at Jhansi and the total number of inmates in the three institutions rose to 1,735 at the end of the month. To gauge the necessity for relief several ordinary works were treated as test works at the same time and attracted some 1,200 people. On November 16th the first regular work was opened on the Parsa-Garautha section of the Baragaon-Garautha road, and on that date the whole district was officially announced as "distressed." By the end of that month 7,064 workers with 1,624 dependants were being relieved on larger works, and 1,501 in poorhouses. The numbers under all forms of relief steadily rose and stood at 70,902 at the end of February. In the following month small works under district officers were opened, and two more poorhouses at Moth and Mahroni were constructed. During April the intensity of the demand for work somewhat fell off owing to the employment of labour in harvesting operations, but rose to 98,133 at the end of May. Timely rain in June at once lightened the pressure and the numbers fell by the end of that month to 27,182, the bulk of which were being gratuitously relieved. All large works were closed in July, and some quarries opened on what is known as the intermediate system; but by the last week of September all measures for the relief of the poor were brought to an end. The total number of units

relieved on larger works under the control of the Public Works department was 9,935,843 at a total cost of Rs. 8,97,141, inclusive of expenditure on tools, plant and establishment. For the construction of small works or wells and for seed Rs. 23,400 were advanced in loans, and Rs. 6,500 as subsistence *taqavi* from October 1896 to the same month in 1897. The relief of the indigent at their own homes or in poorhouses cost Rs. 2,43,874, and Rs. 41,863 were expended in constructing petty works under the superintendence of civil officers and in other miscellaneous charges. The provincial committee of the Indian charitable relief fund gave a grant of Rs. 1,20,000 for distribution to distressed agriculturists. Of this sum Rs. 68,082 were doled out to 2,942 persons for the purchase of plough cattle, and Rs. 47,767 to 7,347 others for that of seed grain. In addition to this class 539 blacksmiths, carpenters and weavers who had been reduced to penury received Rs. 3,816 in order to enable them to restart their respective trades. Of the total land revenue due in 1896-97 or on account of previous years Rs. 3,22,091 were put under suspension, and of this sum Rs. 1,86,090 were subsequently remitted. The rains had begun sufficiently early to ensure a good crop of grass and the forests throughout the district were thrown open to free grazing, so that there was little appreciable mortality among cattle.

Other scarcities.

The famines of 1868-69 and 1896-97 were on a large scale and sufficiently exhibit the susceptibility of the district to the extremes of drought. Since the latter year, partly through less uneven rainfall and partly though the better system now in vogue for dealing with distress, coupled with liberal advances of *taqavi* and remissions of the revenue demand, the district has not been afflicted with more than unevenly distributed scarcity. In 1899-1900 the red soil tracts were badly hit through poor rain in August and its failure in September, but all the works it was found necessary to open were on a scarcity and not on a famine basis: there were no dependants on the relief works but gratuitous relief was dispensed, and two poorhouses were opened at Jhansi and Mahroni. Rs. 68,510 were distributed in *taqavi* and in some places, as at Talbehat, where fodder was scarce, the advance took the shape of fodder at cost price; while Rs. 1,26,784 of land

revenue were suspended. The net result of these operations was a relief of 622,940 units at an outlay of Rs. 71,096. In 1905 the rainfall failed to a very large extent over western Bundelkhand: in Jhansi only 13·35 inches were registered between June and October, against a normal of 34·75, but the Lalitpur subdivision was saved from distress by a timely fall in September and did not come within the area of famine operations. In Jhansi proper 1,036 *mahals* out of a total of 1,366 obtained *kharif* crops estimated to be over half the normal, but only one-third of the total number received the same proportion of *rabi*. It was not however till the beginning of January 1906 that the people were found to be coming to the end of their resources, and on the 10th of that month the tract was formally declared under famine. Works both under the civil authorities and under the control of the Public Works department were then started on tanks and roads, the last of which was not closed till the 13th of September. Poorhouses were also opened and gratuitous relief dispensed at the homes of the people. Early in February pilgrims from the Kumbh *mela* in Allahabad imported cholera, which became epidemic shortly after in the district and was responsible for considerable mortality. The number on large relief works rose to its highest point with 42,917 on April 7th, while small works never attracted more than 1,558 workers. The numbers gratuitously relieved rose very greatly during July owing to the gradual closure of works and reached a total of 42,361 on August 11th, after which they declined. The total expenditure on this occasion amounted to Rs. 3,53,856 for works under the Public Works department, while Rs. 2,25,755 were spent by the civil authorities. In addition to this Rs. 2,57,357 of land revenue due on account of both *kharif* and *rabi* instalments were remitted, and Rs. 3,14,387 were distributed in *taqavi*. Two years later the district was again visited with scarcity, but the distress was partial; famine was confined to the Moth and Garautha tahsils and in the rest of the district only scarcity was declared. Gratuitous relief commenced in this portion of the district in the middle of December 1907, but relief works were not opened till January. The former did not close till the end of August 1908, when the recipients were dismissed with a

month's dole, but the latter, which never attracted numbers exceeding 4,000, were gradually closed down during May and June, the workers being transferred to small civil works and their dependants being brought on the gratuitous relief lists. The numbers relieved by the civil authorities reached their highest total in April with 23,137 persons, including 66 weavers at Mau-Ranipur to whom the bounty of the Government was extended. The total expenditure on all forms of relief amounted to Rs. 3,83,747, of which the Public Works department accounted for Rs. 1,38,374: Rs. 1,60,182 of land revenue were remitted, and Rs. 3,04,945 were distributed in *taqavi*. The scarcities of 1905-06 and 1907-08 are remarkable for the measures taken to deal with the question of fodder. In the former year the scantiness of water and fodder, particularly in Jalaun, is said to have been unprecedented. Not only were the forests of the division thrown open to free grazing, a concession of which, however, comparatively little advantage was taken, but large quantities of grass were cut and stacked and exported to the distressed parts, baled hay being sold in Jhansi at an average of 4 to 5 annas per maund, or distributed as *taqavi*. In 1907-08, the fodder famine in the district was much less acute, and the Jhansi district was able to supply about 3,000 tons of hay for despatch to other districts, besides amply providing for its own needs, though the scantiness of the rainfall had resulted in a considerably restricted crop.

Other calamities.

Famines and scarcities due to drought are undoubtedly very frequent visitors in Jhansi, but it is not always realised how much the district suffers from excessive falls of rain, the damage being usually caused not by the total excess but by the bad distribution. Since 1860 on as many as fifteen occasions the *kharif* crops have been destroyed in various degrees by abnormal moisture. The loss is generally accentuated by either an ensuing blight or rust to the *rabi*; the effects of two consecutive occurrences of rust in 1894 and 1895 have never been forgotten, and have caused a displacement of wheat by other crops over very large areas. Usually rust, called *girwa* or *girwi*, is brought about by late untimely falls of rain with fog and mist during January or February. On similar occasions an

insect called *khapra* attacks the gram plants as soon as they appear, while *kandua*, the black blight, destroys *juar* and *bajra* if saturation in September is abnormal. Frost, called *tusar*, though not unknown in Jhansi is more common in Lalitpur, and a more frequent though less extensively destructive a calamity is hail in the same portion of the district. In 1888 hail damaged 26 villages in Madaora; and in 1895 a storm travelled from Khiria-chitara in Lalitpur to beyond Daroni in Banpur, killing 86 head of cattle on its way. In April 1909 a hail storm occurred between Talbehat and Bansi by which 400 head of goats, a considerable number of cattle and some human beings were killed. Incidentally locusts have invaded the district from time to time.

Prices. Records of prices are available from the Mutiny onwards. From 1858 to 1860 prices appear to have been moderate, wheat selling at Jhansi at 20½ *sers*, gram at 26¾ *sers*, and *juar* at 27½ *sers* per rupee, while in Lalitpur they were considerably lower again. During the ensuing decade they rose somewhat owing doubtless to the famine of 1868-69, and remained on much the same scale between 1871 and 1881, wheat then selling at 17·38 *sers*, gram at 21·18 *sers*, *juar* at 22·55 and *arhar* at 14·21 *sers* per rupee: the advance in the price of the last named article had been very considerable. In fact, with the exception of the years 1876 and 1877, prices ruled distinctly high during this period. They fell again in 1881 and continued low during a period of prosperity, but in 1887 in common with the rest of northern India a large enhancement of prices took place. Since that year they have never regained the position they held prior to it. In the decennial period which closed in 1890 the average price of wheat was 20·38, of gram 25·89, of *juar* 26·07 and of *arhar* 22·14 *sers* for a rupee. For the next five years the price of wheat remained practically unchanged, while that of gram, *juar* and *arhar* fell considerably, only to rise higher than ever during the following five years, three of which were years of great scarcity. Disturbed by these calamities the decennial average between 1891 and 1901 amounts to 13·62 *sers* for wheat, 17·97 *sers* for gram, 18·98 *sers* for *juar* and 17·86 *sers* for *arhar* per rupee. For the six years from 1901 to 1906 this scale has little altered; wheat has remained at 13·14, while gram and *juar*, thanks to the excellent

seasons of 1904 and 1906, have maintained an average of 18·31 and 20·65 *sers* per rupee. The sudden rise of prices in 1888 is, it will remembered, contemporaneous with the opening of the railway, and it is not improbable that this had some effect upon them.

Wages. Between 1858 and 1868 all wages were reckoned to have advanced 100 per cent in Jhansi but not to have changed in Lalitpur. Skilled labourers, such as carpenters and masons, who before the Mutiny were receiving two to three or four annas a day, according to class, were able in the latter year to command 5 annas in the villages and between six and eight annas a day in the towns; while unskilled labourers, such as *beldars*, obtained an increase of half an anna on their previous remuneration of two annas. The Jhansi rates, however, appear to have been greatly affected by the results of the famine, and it is not improbable that the enhancement was only a temporary one due to the lack of hands and to the following good seasons during which the labouring population were not to be diverted from their agricultural pursuits by the ordinary scale of wages. That the rise here represented was not permanent is shown by the rates in vogue twenty years later, when carpenters, *mochis, darzis* and *lohars* obtained on an average five annas per day, and coolies and *bhistis* two to three annas. Between 1891 and 1896 a rise appears to have taken place, the averages increasing to between five and eight annas for skilled workmen and three to four annas for unskilled labourers. In spite of a temporary decline following the famine of 1897 this scale now generally prevails within the district, though labourers in the larger centres command generally higher rates than those in the country.

Weights and measures. In Jhansi proper besides the ordinary *man* or maund and *ser*, with its subdivision *paseri* or five *sers*, the chief grain measures are the *pya, gon* and *mani. Pya* is a vessel used for measuring grain. Its capacity varies from place to place, but usually seven to eight are included in a maund. The *gon* is equivalent to three maunds, but to five and a half maunds in Mau: and the *mani* contains twenty *pyas*, and is also approximately equivalent to three maunds. In the Lalitpur subdivision, besides the ordinary standards, there is one peculiar measure

of capacity. The smallest subdivision is the *poli*, which is approximately equal to one pint. Two *poli* make one *bareya*, and ten *bareya* go to one *paili*. Twenty *paili* are equivalent to one *mani*, which has a capacity of nearly seven bushels; and one *mani* makes a *manesa*. The *mani* varies in weight according to the crop, one *mani* of *kodon* or *mahua* being equal to about three and three-quarter maunds, of barley four and a half, of *juar* four and three-quarters, of wheat five, of *ghi* six, and of water six and a half.

Land measures. The land measures are somewhat involved. The oldest institution of the country is the *Jataria bigha* (derived from Jatara in Orchha). In early times it was probably only a conventional expression indicating an approximate area, but at the settlement of 1892 it was accepted for general use as equivalent to ·373 of an acre. It is also nominally supposed to be a fifth less than the Erachhi *bigha*, but it is seldom found to bear such a proportion in the *patwaris'* papers It is simply used as a convenient means of expressing the multiple of the rent rate or the nominal area on which it is agreed that rent shall be paid. It may be a traditional area known to all and always recorded, or it may be that area varied by consent, or a nominal area selected for the field by the parties themselves or roughly measured out. This vague unit of area is ordinarily spoken of as the village *bigha*, and is still dominant in Mau tahsil and is quoted in Garautha. In Moth, Garautha and Jhansi the standard is the Erachhi *bigha*. This was recognised by the Government at the settlement of 1866 and it is generally known from this circumstance as the settlement *bigha*. Theoretically the Erachhi *bigha* is ·466 of an acre, and at this rate a conversion table was supplied to the settlement officers, but the reputed Erachhi *bigha* in the villages varies in extent. These local measurements are vaguely known as *goanti bighas* and are recorded as village *bighas*. In tracts where the *kuanbundi*, *bijguna* and *halguna* systems of charging rents prevail no unit of measurement is needed or used. The *pakka bigha* of Lalitpur is a square of 4,839·6849 yards or nearly one acre, the local *bigha* being approximately four-sevenths of an acre everywhere except in Madaora, where the *pakka bigha* is employed. But acres and hundredths of an

acre, usually called "decimals," are now well understood in Lalitpur, while in Jhansi proper the conservatism of the people has prevented their adoption.

In the Lalitpur subdivision the Government rupee has been for many years the common standard of currency, but in the outlying parts of Jhansi proper, and more especially in the Mau and Garautha tahsils, the Gajashahi rupee, an Orchha coin, is still the ordinary medium of exchange in commercial transactions. In Jhansi tahsil and the western part of Moth the Government rupee has gained currency, having been introduced, it is said, by direct order after the Mutiny. The copper coin in use is the Gajashahi pice. The revenue payers at one time underwent considerable hardship owing to the fluctuations of value, many of the rents in the easterly parts being paid in this coin. Up to the year 1891 the rate of exchange between the two coins had remained fairly stable at about 116 Gajashahi to 100 Government rupees. Shortly afterwards, however, a rapid depreciation of the Gajashahi rupee set in and in 1894 the rate of exchange was reported as having risen to 138 to 100. A proposal was made in that year that rents recorded in Gajashahi rupees should be converted at the rate of 125 to 100, but this was considered inadequate and the only order passed was that *zamindars* could have their rents recorded in either coinage, apparently at the current rates of exchange. In 1898 the exchange was fluctuating between 138 and 150, but as conversion at 125 produced fair rents Mr. Fremantle adopted that ratio in the preparation of his settlement statistics. Hitherto no reductions of revenue had been granted to the landholders on account of fluctuations in the rate of exchange, but in that year the question was raised by the collector, and a long discussion ended in the issue of orders that from the year 1900 rents hitherto recorded in the *patwaris'* papers in Gajashahi coinage should be converted at the rate of 150 to 100, this higher ratio being adopted because the rate of exchange had meanwhile risen considerably over 150. At the present time the Gajashahi rupee is still the recognized medium of exchange in a considerable part of the district and in the more remote villages a large though decreasing proportion of the rental is paid in that coinage. An improvement has taken place in the

Coinage.

rate of exchange, the ratio varying between 138 and 145 to 100 or occasionally higher according to the demand for Government rupees. The fixed rate assumed for conversion has resulted in a simplification of the village rent rolls and a considerable saving of trouble to the landholders, the stronger of whom are attempting to insist on tenants paying their rents in Government rupees. It is hoped that this very desirable tendency to substitute King's coin for Gajashahi rupees will in the future have the effect of totally supplanting the latter currency.

Interest. In large transactions, where landed property forms the security, money is seldom advanced at less than 20 per cent., but the rate of interest depends on the circumstances of the borrower and the nature of the security: if the latter is considered good and is immoveable property other than land, 12 to 15 per cent. is charged. In small transactions, when articles of value are given as security, money is advanced up to 75 per cent. of the value of the security and interest at the rate of 9 to 12 per cent. is charged. Petty agricultural loans on personal security are made at 25 per cent. with an additional charge of one anna or more per rupee. The latter is generally calculated by assuming that 16 annas for purposes of repayment are only 15 annas, the one anna being called *dharti* or *nuksan ek anna*. Advances on the security of crops are made at 25 per cent. or *sawai*, repayable at harvest time at the prices in vogue at the time of lending. Thus if grain is selling at 16 *sers* per rupee when the loan is contracted and at 20 *sers* when the harvest is gathered, 21 *sers* will be repayable by the borrower. Sometimes the charges are even more extortionate, and the advance is made at 50 instead of 25 per cent., called *deorh*, and occasionally at 75 per cent., when it is called *paundun*.

Banks. In addition to the European banking establishments at Jhansi, including a branch of the Allahabad Bank, there are a number of native firms in the city, some of whom have business connections in other parts of India. In the district the money-lending business is practically monopolized by the village grain-dealers and it is in this direction that efforts have been made to extend the benefits of cheaper credit by the institution of village banks. Five rural societies were established in 1901 at Mahroni,

pargana Mahroni, Sonrai and Bahadurpur, pargana Madaora, and Lalitpur and Nunauli, in pargana Lalitpur: the number has now increased to six by the opening of another at Kharobra in 1903. The average amount of money advanced in loans by these institutions is Rs. 2,700, the Lalitpur, Nunauli and Mahroni banks having the largest transactions, while those at Kharobra and Bahadurpur have not attained as yet a vigorous growth.

Trade. In the earliest days of the British occupation the town of Mau-Ranipur was the largest trade emporium in the district. The local exports were chiefly *al* dye, cotton and manufactured cloths which Mr. Daniell in 1863 estimated to be worth Rs. 6,80,000 per annum. Besides this there was a large transit trade in all kinds of goods, including iron ore, wood, pulses and *ghi*, between the towns of southern Bundelkhand and Central India on the one hand and Hathras, Fatehgarh, Cawnpore and Aligarh in the Doab, Mirzapur on the Ganges, and Amraoti, Chhatarpur, Indore, Bhopal and other places on the other, where the traders of Mau had correspondents. The chief imports were rice, sugar, salt, piece-goods and tobacco. These articles passed along the road past Gursarai to Orai and thence to Kalpi. As regards the subdivision there was a little mutual trade with Gwalior and Orchha in grain; *pan* was exported from Pali, and *ghi*, lac, honey, gum, *ballis* and other forest produce came from the wilder tracts. The great inland customs line ran through both portions of the district from north to south, entering Jhansi just north of Erachh and passing a little west of New Jhansi, and through Lalitpur along the Saugor road till it left the subdivision a little west of Narhat. The great transporting agents in those days were the Banjaras. The improvement in means of communication that followed the famine of 1868-69 gradually confined through traffic to certain well-defined channels, and in 1880-81 statistics of road-borne traffic were taken at three posts, namely Moth, Khailar and Kuretha, on the two main commercial thoroughfares of the district, the Cawnpore-Saugor and Mau-Orai roads, in connection with the proposed introduction of a railway. The total weight of imports was found on that occasion to be 750,308 maunds, consisting chiefly of grain, salt, sugar and cotton piece-goods, and that of exports to be 449,862 maunds comprising for

the most part raw cotton, pulses and oilseeds. When the railway was completed ten years later it attracted to itself the bulk of the trade of the district, and Jhansi from its more central position and the fact that it was a junction was found to be the main trade centre of the district. The total weight of rail-borne imports in 1891 was 398,516 maunds at Jhansi and 92,142 maunds at Mau, other stations on the line having but little traffic, and consisted for the most part of salt, sugar, wheat, stone and building materials and tobacco At the same period the exports from Jhansi amounted to 223,059 maunds and from Mau to 46,209 maunds comprising chiefly oilseeds, raw cotton, grains other than wheat and *ghi*. The statistics of rail-borne trade now enable us to form a more complete idea of the volume and destination of the district produce. During the five years from 1903 to 1907 the average exports from Jhansi, Lalitpur, and Mau stations have amounted to 814,024 maunds. Raw cotton to the extent of 14,071 maunds on the average has found its way from Jhansi to Bombay, and oilseeds from all three stations to the amount of 158,466 maunds. The trade in gram and pulses has averaged 32,438 maunds during the same period, the bulk of which is distributed among other stations on the Indian Midland section of the Great Indian Peninsula railway; but considerable quantities find their way to the Panjab *viâ* Agra junction or Madras *viâ* Raichur. Other food grains which are exported in large quantities are *juar* and *bajra*, whose destination appears mainly to be other parts of Bundelkhand. Other articles of export of increasing importance are bones, with an average of 24,649 maunds, and hay and grass to the extent of 33,781 maunds. The average imports have during the same period amounted to 1,435,859 maunds, consisting of wheat, coal, iron and steel, salt, sugar, kerosine oil and timber. Refined sugar averaging 29,815 maunds comes chiefly from Bombay and unrefined sugar to the extent of 84,651 maunds from stations on the Oudh and Rohilkhand or Bengal and North-Western railway *viâ* Cawnpore. Wheat to the amount of 279,507 maunds is obtained from those same sources or from the Cawnpore district itself, and an average of 152,993 maunds of salt from the Rajputana-Malwa railway *viâ* Agra. Kerosine oil arrives from Bombay or Calcutta to the

extent of 37,770 maunds annually. The conclusion to be derived from these returns is that the district is normally in want of wheat, salt and cotton manufactured goods and is wholly destitute of sugar, while it has a surplus of pulses, *ghi*, grass or hay, *kharif* food grains and oilseeds. At the same time these stations are the collecting centres for considerable tracts of native territory, and much of the exported produce comes from those places, and much of that imported is destined for distribution in the local markets in them. The road-borne traffic passes still along the routes from Tehri to Mau or Lalitpur on the east and along the road from Sipri to Jhansi in the north-west, and along that from Chanderi to Lalitpur in the south-west.

Manufactures. In early days certain towns in the Jhansi district had a celebrity for local manufactures. The best known of these were the *kharua* cloth of Mau-Ranipur, the chintz and *chunari* of Erachh and the stamped cloth of Bararu. The *al* plant, from which a red dye is extracted, was extensively grown in former times, and the dye both exported and locally used in the colouring of rough *gazi* cloth. The industry is still important but is decaying. The *chunari* of Erachh is a long-cloth, sometimes red and sometimes red with yellow and black spots and flowers, worn by women as a covering for their head and shoulders. *Al* and indigo dyes are manipulated in different ways, and the result is of some artistic merit. *Sari* and *dhoti* borders woven in silk covered with gold thread, other silk edgings and end-pieces, and *rumals* of various patterns carried by Banias, are also locally made in various villages. The woollen carpets of Jhansi were once famous, and were noticed by Colonel Sleeman in 1844; but the quality now made is very inferior unless great care is taken to ensure good work. At Mau ordinary brass work is also manufactured. In the Lalitpur subdivision there is little to record. Coarse blankets are woven by Koris in Talbehat, at Lalitpur stamped curtains are produced, and in Madaora artistic brass and bell metal articles with an incised pattern are made. And in Lalitpur itself some business in the manufacture of pigskin saddles is carried on by the Indian Christians of the American Methodist Mission. Axe heads of a quaint pattern are also still manufactured at Talbehat.

Railway workshops.

In recent years the Great Indian Peninsula railway have established several large workshops at Jhansi. A small engineering workshop under a European foreman, in which small jobs for the Indian Midland section of that railway are carried out, employs on an average 50 men, whose wages range from Rs. 50 for skilled to Rs. 9 for unskilled labour per mensem. The deputy locomotive superintendent, with two assistants, has charge of the lines from Jhansi to Dehli, Cawnpore, Manikpur and Bina, and there are engineering workshops, under the control of a works manager, which employ 5 foremen and 2,058 men. Besides work connected with locomotives, miscellaneous work is undertaken, such as repairs to steam pumps, and other work for the various railway departments as well as for other departments of the Government service. The average wage in these is Rs. 25 per mensem for skilled labour and Rs. 9 for unskilled labour. The carriage and wagon superintendent has under him an assistant, who is in charge of the carriage shops and all arrangements connected with rolling stock on the sections north of Jhansi, and employs an inspector, several foremen and 1,690 men, paid at an average rate of Rs. 20 per month for skilled and Rs. 9 per month for unskilled labour. In addition to the building of new carriages and wagons he supervises all repairs to the rolling stock on the Itarsi division. The output of these shops is on an average 60 new carriages and 120 new wagons a year, besides repairs to some 450 carriages and 700 wagons.

Markets.

Jhansi city, which is now the largest town, sprang into sudden importance with the construction of the railways, but before the transfer of that town in 1886 Mau and its coadjutor Ranipur combined to form the chief mart in the district. The spread of railways is slowly killing the important through carrying trade which the two towns once enjoyed. A list of the local bazars will be found in an appendix. The district proper is not over well supplied with markets: next to Jhansi, Chirgaon is probably the most rising mart. Erachh, once a place of some importance under the Mughals, now does no trade, and Moth is merely an overgrown village. Garautha tahsil suffers more than any other part from the want of a market: Gursarai has a bazar of some local reputation, but much of the surplus grain of this

north-eastern tract is carried over the Dhasan to Rath in Hamirpur, and Garautha is an inconsiderable village. This tract has now been opened out, however, by the Mau-Punchh metalled road which runs through Gursarai, and with this Garautha has metalled connection. In the subdivision all the pargana headquarter towns have local bazars. But throughout the district those within easy reach of the railway are rising at the expense of the others, and the majority of the latter merely serve to supply the needs of the surrounding villages.

Fairs. A complete list of all the fairs held in the district will be found in the appendix. They are very numerous, but few are of any size or importance and the great majority are local gatherings attended by a few hundred people, held in honour of some local deity. Usually they last for one day only, a small trade in metal goods, toys and similar articles being done, and take place for the most part in April after the *rabi* harvest is over. The largest fair is the *Jalbihar mela* held at Mau in September, which is attended by some 7,000 persons. It lasts for four days, and all the images of the various deities in the temples at Mau are brought down to the banks of the Sukhnai river. The former estimated attendance was 50,000 people, and the fair has evidently much declined in importance. Besides the ordinary fairs, occasional assemblies take place at which the gatherings are much larger. The Jains at Lalitpur celebrate the *Rath mela* from time to time, the *rath* or sacred chariot being dragged over a prescribed route and back to the Chatharpal temple. Such a fair was held in 1898 and was attended by some 17,000 persons, the numbers on the chief day being reckoned to have approximated to 100,000. Similar *rath melas* are hold by the Jains from time to time in other places, such as Gadiana, Jakhlon and Kelgawan, where this community is numerous. *Dhanus-yug* fairs in honour of Rama having drawn Siva's bow also occur in the subdivision. One such was held at Talbehat in January 1899 and was attended by 8,000 people. In Mahroni tahsil a curious fair is held at Parol on the fifth day of the dark half of *Jait* lasting two days. The scene is a temple at a spot called Panduan, at the place where the Jamni river passes through the Vindhyan hills and where there are pictures inscribed in the

cliffs. On the second day the assemblage shifts to a place a little to the north of the village, where there is a statue of Janki. No fairs except the *Jhuman-rath mela* held at Rajpura in pargana Talbehat require special sanitary or police precautions.

Communications. The communications throughout both parts of the district are fair. The only tracts devoid of railways are the north-eastern part of Jhansi proper and the south-eastern portion of the subdivision. Main metalled roads radiate from Jhansi town in all directions, and connect it with all tahsils except Garautha, which is unfortunately situated, from the point of view of Jhansi, owing to the interposition of the Betwa. But even this tract finds a more convenient outlet to the south and to the north-west, and has been now connected in both directions with the railway by a metalled road through Gursarai. Moreover the portion of the road between Grautha village and Baragaon which runs over blacksoil is being metalled as far as Bhasneh. The cross-country roads suffer from all the defects common to lines of communication in Bundelkhand. Where they run over *pathri* soil they are sufficient for all practical purposes, especially if raised, but unraised roads in such parts are frequently studded with rocks and boulders. Unmetalled roads on black soil become impassable during the rains; and all roads encounter innumerable *nalas* and streams, only a few of which are provided with bridges and culverts. For nine months in the year, however, unbridged *nalas* offer no serious obstacle to traffic, and for the same period even the larger rivers can generally be easily negotiated. Since the British occupation an enormous development has taken place in the communications of the district. Before the cession regular roads were unknown. Jhansi was first connected by a metalled road through Jalaun to Cawnpore; this was later continued to Saugor, but was not completed till 1878, and the wretched state of the roads was responsible in great part for the intensity of the scarcity during the heavy rains of 1869, which immediately followed the famine. The other chief road, that to Nowgong, was not completed till after the Mutiny. Since then great progress has been made, but much yet remains to be done.

Railways. The Indian Midland railway, which had its headquarters at Jhansi, was constructed during the years from 1883 to 1889,

During the same period the Jhansi-Manikpur section was made, both being opened in the latter year. Attention was directed to these works primarily on account of famine, but the extension of the Great Indian Peninsula railway from Itarsi to Cawnpore and Agra was an obvious and necessary extension of the means of communication between two important towns in Upper India and Bombay. The total length of the main line to Cawnpore within the district is 136 miles, including the small distances where the line traverses intrusions of native territory. From Jhansi junction a branch, which turns north-westwards to Agra, runs for a distance of 12 miles though the district, when it passes into the Datia state. The Jhansi-Manikpur section runs east from the junction station, cutting through abutting portions of Orchha state towards its most important station, Mau; it has a length of nearly fifty miles within the district. Both these railways were built with state capital, and in 1900 their management was transferred to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, who now work them as part of their system.

Railway stations. There are stations on the main line at Dhourra, Jakhlon, Jiron, Lalitpur, Delwara, Jakhaura, Bijrotha, Talbehat, Hinota, Basai, Babina, Khajraha and Bijoli to the south, and at Mustara, Garhmau, Parichha, Chirgaon, Nandkhas, Moth and Punchh on the line to Cawnpore; and at Karari on that to Agra. The Manikpur section has seven stations at Orchha, Barwa Sagar, Arjar, Teharka, Ranipur Road, Mau-Ranipur and Rura. Many of these are unimportant and have no great traffic in passengers or goods. There is also a subsidiary station in cantonments situated on the latter line for the facilities of troops proceeding to camps-of-exercise.

Roads. A list of all the roads in the district will be found in the appendix. Exclusive of roads within municipal limits their total length in 1908 was 1,341 miles, out of which 348 miles were metalled. Roads are divided into the two main heads of provincial and local, the former being in charge of the Public Works department and maintained from provincial revenues, while the latter are kept up by local funds under the control of the district board. Provincial roads, with a total length of 180½ miles, include the two sections of the Cawnpore-

Jhansi-Saugor trunk road, the roads from Jhansi to Gwalior and to Sipri, 30* and 14 miles respectively in length, and several small railway approach roads. The southern section of the Saugor road is 56 miles in length and is no longer kept up as a metalled road after it leaves the boundaries of the district. Among local roads those of the first-class which are metalled and wholly or partially bridged and drained are maintained by the Public Works department at the cost of the district board; the others, which are all unmetalled, are entirely in the hands of the latter authority. The chief roads in the former class are the Lalitpur-Mahroni and the Mahroni-Madaora roads, which are bridged and drained throughout; and the Jhansi-Nowgong, Ratausa-Bokhara, and Mau-Punchh roads covering 92 miles, which are only partially bridged and drained. Others of the same classes are the Mau-Tehri, Gursarai-Garautha, Moth-Samthar, Chirgaon-Bhander and the Jhansi station roads: their total length is 167½ miles. Unmetalled roads belonging to five classes extend over 993 miles. Those of the second-class, which are partially bridged and drained, though unmetalled, are 210 miles in length and include the long road from Baragaon to Motikatra, from Mau to Garautha, Gursarai to Saiyidnagar and three roads radiating from Lalitpur to Jakhlon, Pali and Gugarwara, as well as many smaller roads; they are frequently continuations of roads which have been partially metalled. Unmetalled roads of the fourth, fifth and sixth-classes, which are in some cases partially bridged or drained and in others only cleared and not surfaced, ramify in all directions, connecting important villages or towns of lesser note with the main arteries of communication. They cover 783 miles, out of which 539 belong to the fifth-class.

Bungalows. There are dak bungalows at Jhansi and Lalitpur, and inspection houses on provincial roads at Sesa, Moth, Chirgaon, Baragaon, Jhansi, Babina, Talbehat, Lalitpur, Bansi, Birdha, Guna, Datia and Gaura, those at Sesa, Datia and Gaura being really in independent territory but regarded as inside the district for purposes of maintenance. On local roads bungalows under

* Sixteen of these lie in Datia state, but are in charge of the officer of the P. W. D. stationed at Jhansi.

the control of the Public Works department lie at Ghughua, Sakrar, Bangra, Mau, Ghat Kotra, Rewan, Pandwaha, Gursarai, Erachh, Khitwans, Chhaprat and Madaora; and under the control of the district board at Kachnch, Markuan, Lahchura, Parsa, Garautha, Baidaura, Siras-ghat, Rajghat, Bant, Udaipura and Nathikhera. Besides these there is a fine *nazul* bungalow at Barwa Sagar with five sets of rooms, and forest bungalows at Jharar-ghat and Deogarh, and during the recent famine small inspection houses have been erected at Dhamna, Talaur, Benda Surwai, Sitaura, Dakhnesar, Kakarwai, Chhitara, and Nawada in Jhansi proper, and at Sonjna, Paron and Jakhaura in Lalitpur.* The Irrigation department moreover maintains a number of inspection houses for the accomodation of its officers. Those belonging to the Betwa canal lie at Dhukwan, Parichha, Nadsia, Pulia† and Khakal, the last being within *mauza* Punchh; and in connection with the Tanks division there are bungalows at Garhmau, Pachwara, Siaori, Bhasnch and Asta.

Encamping-grounds. There is an Imperial military cholera encamping-ground at Jhansi under management of the Public Works department and ordinary encamping-grounds under similar control at Barwa Sagar, Sakrar, Bangra, Mau and Ghat Kotra. Local encamping-grounds under the collector's control are situated at Pandwaha, Bhasneh and Gursarai.

Ferries. In the appendix will be found a list of all the ferries in the district. The provincial road from Jhansi to Lalitpur is provided with a causeway at Jharar-ghat, and in consequence of the flooding of this up to the month of January, owing to the construction of the Dhukwan weir, a ferry with accommodation equal to that at Nohat-ghat will be maintained in future by the Canal department. The latter ferry at the point where the Jhansi-Nowgong road crosses the Betwa is the only important ferry in the district, and at this point three boats large enough to convey artillery across the river, together with a small boat for passengers, are regularly maintained. There is

* Of these those at Paron, Sonjna, Benda Surwai, Jakhaura and Kakarwai have been since made over to the Forest department.

† This lies really in native territory but is part of the canal equipment and is treated as lying in the district.

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also a causeway at Rajghat on the Chanderi road. The only ferry managed by the Public Works department lies twenty miles beyond the district, where the Jhansi-Gwalior road crosses the Sindh river. The majority of the ferries are over the Betwa river at various points along its course both in Jhansi and Lalitpur, and, with the exception of those at Ramnagar and Barehta, the former on the Chirgaon-Gursarai and the latter on the Jhansi-Garautha road, bring in a very small income. On the Dhasan the only ferries maintained by the Government are those at Lahchura-ghat on the road from Mau to Panwari in Hamirpur, and at Pindar Ghat in the south-east of Lalitpur. There are a few private ferries which are managed by landholders but are of no importance.

Bridges. Excluding the smaller bridges thrown across minor lines of drainage, which are most frequently met with on the Jhansi-Nowgong road, the only permanent bridges over the larger rivers belong to the railways. The largest of these is that on the Jhansi-Manikpur section of the Great Indian Peninsula railway near Orchha, opened to traffic on June 5th, 1889. It consists of 13 spans 150 feet long, and 1 span of 60 feet, the total length being 2,166 feet, and was erected at a cost of Rs. 13,93,720. That over the same river near Basai on the Itarsi-Cawnpore section has a total length of 1,446 feet and comprises nine spans each covering 150 feet. It was opened to traffic on January 1st 1889 and was constructed at a total cost of Rs. 7,64,672, the abutments being built for a double line. In addition to these the smaller bridges over the Dhasan and Narain rivers deserve mention. The former consists of 13 spans of 100 feet each, and the latter, which lies in the extreme south of Lalitpur, of 4 spans of 150 feet.

CHAPTER III.

THE PEOPLE.

The first census taken in the district was that of 1865. This, like the succeeding censuses till 1891, was taken separately for Jhansi and Lalitpur. The population enumerated for the former tract amounted to 357,442 persons, exclusive of the military population of 4,995. The total area of this part of the district, which was then somewhat differently constituted, was returned as 1,608 square miles, the average density being 222 persons to the square mile and ranging from 261 in Mau to 187 in Garautha-*cum*-Gursarai. In Lalitpur on the same occasion, the total population was returned at 248,146 persons, excluding 552 in military employ. The total density on the area of 1,947 square miles, which has never been changed, was only 127 persons per square mile, a very much lower figure than even that of Jhansi proper. None of the parganas could be said to be thickly populated, the density only rising to 150 in Bansi and falling as low as 76 in Balabehat. Census of 1865.

The following enumeration taken in 1872, which was much more accurate than its predecessor, gave the population of Jhansi as 317,826 and that of Lalitpur as 212,661, a grand total of 530,487 persons. Parganas Jhansi and Moth however had meanwhile lost 43 square miles of territory. These figures at once reveal a very large decrease which must be assigned to the calamities of 1868 and 1869, when many people either died or emigrated. The density had now fallen to 203 in Jhansi and 109 in Lalitpur, both portions of the district having suffered equally severely; but in the subdivision pargana Bansi lost its pre-eminence and Lalitpur pargana emerged with the highest density of only 128 persons to the square mile. Census of 1872.

The first of the regular decennial enumerations took place nine years later in 1881, the constitution of the district being the same as in 1872. The period had been generally free from calamity Census of 1881.

and the prosperity was reflected in the number of the population: this had risen to 333,227 for Jhansi proper and 249,088 in Lalitpur. The density per square mile was now returned at 212 persons in the former and 128 in the latter portion of the district—a notable increase which was equally distributed over all tahsils.

Census of 1891.

Before the following decade had come to an end Jhansi proper had again undergone changes in its boundaries, but these had on this occasion resulted in an increase which raised the total area to 1,640 square miles. The accretion of territory included the city of Jhansi, the population of which made a substantial difference to the returns. Swollen by the number of urban inhabitants the people numbered 409,459 souls, giving a density of 249 persons to the square mile. If the population of the transferred villages, amounting to 42,638 persons, be excluded from the returns of 1891, the inhabitants of the entire district, as it stood at the census of 1881, are found to number 366,821 persons, showing a rise of 10 per cent. on the figures of 1881 and giving a density of 234 persons per square mile. The population of Lalitpur, of which the area had remained unchanged, amounted on the same occasion to 274,200, showing a similar percentage of increase and a density of 141 persons per square mile.

Census of 1901.

The last census was taken in 1901, and it was then ascertained that there had been again a substantial decrease, as the accumulated calamities of the years from 1894 to 1897 and the partial drought of 1900 had again exercised an adverse effect. The total number of inhabitants was 616,759, giving a density of 170 persons to the square mile or 159 excluding the city population. Of the whole number 248,489 belonged to the Lalitpur subdivision, and while the density in Jhansi rises to 219 in Lalitpur it only reaches 128, pargana Madaora, comprising the southern portion of Mahroni tahsil, only possessing 92 persons to the square mile. The total area of the district, however, includes over 190 square miles of reserved forest, and if these are excluded the density over the whole district improves to 179 persons per square mile. The urban population numbered 98,737 or 16·08 per cent. of the total population, a proportion which, though not in itself high, considerably exceeds that of other Bundelkhand districts.

Towns and villages.

In 1865 there were only 6 places in the district which had over 5,000 inhabitants. These were Bhander, Barwa Sagar, Gursarai, Ranipur, Mau and Lalitpur, out of which Mau alone exceeded 10,000. This number had not altered in 1872, but in 1881 it was increased by the addition of Talbehat, the population of which had risen to 5,293. At the same period the district contained 1,295 towns and villages, of which 1,184 contained less than 1,000 inhabitants, while 89 had between 1,000 and 2,000, and 15 between 2,000 and 5,000 persons apiece. Ten years later there were 1,347 towns and villages, of which 1,211 had populations of less than 1,000, while 113 others had from 1,000 to 2,000, and 17 more between 2,000 and 5,000. The remainder included the municipality and cantonment of Jhansi, now for the first time comprised within the district, the combined union of Mau-Ranipur, Barwa Sagar, Gursarai, Lalitpur and Talbehat. At the last census the total had decreased by seven: 1,250 villages contained under 1,000 persons, 69 others under 2,000 and 15 under 5,000. The remaining six were the same as before, with the exception of Gursarai and Bhander, the municipality and cantonment of Jhansi ranking as separate units. The largest number of big townships is to be found in Mau and Lalitpur, but throughout the subdivision the number of those with less than 200 inhabitants greatly exceeds that in Jhansi proper. This is due to a greater dispersion of the population in small settlements in the red soil tract, whereas in the black soil areas it is concentrated in large sites. In the black soil tracts of the district the villages frequently lie perched on a fort-like hillock which stands out above the surrounding country; elevated positions are, however, commonly chosen for the village site throughout the district. To the north the houses are usually built of mud and roofed with small fire-burnt tiles, thatch being rarely seen: but in the neighbourhood of hills the habitations are commonly built of unhewn stones cemented with mud. The general appearance differs greatly from that of the villages in the Doab. In the cities the more substantial edifices are built of locally-made bricks, and slabs of stone provide lintels and door-posts. The entire district is studded with brick or mud forts and the ruins of more imposing stone strongholds erected by Bundela and other Rajput chieftains in past times.

Migration. The district used at one time to be considerably affected by migration, the people moving away in times of scarcity to Malwa and Gujerat where famines were thought to be unknown. This is not so much the case now, but there are still occasional movements of population to and from the contiguous native states. At the last census 83·69 per cent. of the people enumerated were born in the district, 12·90 per cent. in adjacent tracts and 3·41 per cent. in more distant parts. Thus the proportion of immigrants was 16·3 per cent., nine-tenths of these being inhabitants of Central India and for the most part women. The figure is a high one but is easily intelligible, considering the closeconnection the district and its inhabitants have always had with the bordering native states. This addition to the population is not counteracted by emigration to any great extent, for of all those who in 1901 gave Jhansi as their birthplace 93·96 were enumerated in the district, 3·54 per cent. were found within the limits of the United Provinces, the majority being in Hamirpur, Jalaun, Cawnpore and Agra, and only 2·50 per cent. in other provinces of India.

Sex. The proportion of the sexes among the population has shown curious fluctuations. In 1865 there were 90·2 females to every hundred males in the district. In 1872 this proportion fell slightly to just under 90, but rose in the following decade to 92·4. In 1891 there was again a decrease, the proportion falling to 92·1. At the last census it had risen to 95·7—a high figure. Among the low castes, such as Basors, Bhangis, Chamars and Khangars, females generally exceed males, while among the higher classes of the population, such as Brahmans, Kayasths and Rajputs, the tendency is in the opposite direction. There are however exceptions, as for example Gadarias, Kachhis and Lodhis, among whom males exceed females appreciably. The proportion of the sexes among Rajputs in the district is very evenly divided, but in the case of certain clans there are curious discrepancies, males exceeding females or *vice versa* according to no fixed rules. Among Musalmans the case is similar.

Religion. Of the total population at last census 571,684 or 92·7 per cent. were Hindus, 30,899 or 5·0 per cent. Musalmans, 10,760 or 1·7 per cent Jains, 3,064 Christians, 177 Parsis, 81 Aryas and 16 Buddhists. The proportion of Hindus is well up to the average of Bundelkhand, where Musalmans have never been numerous.

On the other hand the latter have steadily increased not only in numbers, but in the ratio they bear to the total population: in 1881 they formed 3·3 per cent. and in 1891 4·2 per cent. This phenomenon, which is common to many districts of the provinces, may probably be ascribed in part to their greater longevity and to the fact that the Musalman community is generally resident in the larger towns, where it does not include so large a proportion of the very poor as the Hindu community, and also to the increased immigration of those who are engaged in domestic and clerical duties. In Lalitpur Musalmans hold a very subordinate position and form an insignificant portion of the population: for the most part they are Government or private servants.

Christianity. The earliest Christian mission in the district was opened at Jhansi by the Church Missionary Society in 1858: it has two branches, one at Lalitpur and one at Mau-Ranipur. In 1886 the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America opened a station at Jhansi, and in the same year the American Reformed Episcopal Mission started a branch at Lalitpur. Recently the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel has appointed a native preacher to undertake missionary work in the city of Jhansi. In addition to the ordinary evangelical, medical and educational work usually undertaken by such bodies, the Lalitpur missions maintain a large orphanage at that place where the inmates, consisting for the most part of children rescued from starvation during the famines of the last decade, are taught trades and handicrafts. To the endeavours of these various missionary bodies must be ascribed the noteable progress of Christianity in the district. At the census of 1881 there were only 40 native Christians: by 1891 the number had risen to 161. At the most recent census there were found to be 777 native Christians, of whom 355 belonged to the Anglican communion, 267 were Roman Catholics, 29 were Presbyterians and 13 Methodists, while in the case of 96 persons no denomination was specified. The rest of the Christian population, numbering in all 2,287 persons, were composed of the troops in garrison and the civil and military residents. Besides several mission buildings there is a church dedicated to St. Martin and situated in the south-west of cantonments, at Jhansi, where a chaplain appointed by the Government holds

regular service; there are also a Roman Catholic church and a Wesleyan chapel; and at Lalitpur there is a small church dedicated to St. John in the Wilderness.

Aryas, Sikhs and Jains.

As in other districts of Bundelkhand the Aryas are few and unimportant, and have somewhat decreased in numbers since 1891. The Sikhs are for the most part in Government service as police constables or sepoys, and the Parsis are immigrant shopkeepers, traders and railway servants. The Jains on the other hand are more numerous than in any other district of the United Provinces except Meerut and Agra. Of the total number enumerated the vast majority are found in the Lalitpur subdivision. Tradition traces the origin of their influence to Parasah and the two brothers Deopat and Kheopat, who are said to have been very wealthy and to have built many temples at Deogarh and other places. They and their caste-fellows advanced money to the Rajput chiefs and now practically monopolize the money-lending business of the subdivision. Besides the more famous shrines of upper India which theyf requent, the Jains make pilgrimages to four places in Lalitpur, namely Pawa in Talbehat, Deogarh in Balabehat, Siron Kalan in Bansi and the Chatharpal temple in Lalitpur town, and they also visit Papora in Orchha state, Chanderi, Thaban and Maksi in Gwalior, Sonagir in Datia and Seupa in Bijawar in the immediate neighbourhood.

Hinduism.

The great majority of the Hindu inhabitants belong to no particular religious sect. Of the total number 14·7 per cent. were returned in 1901 as monotheists, 4·2 per cent. as Vaishnavites of various kinds, less than 1 per cent. as Saivites, 1,494 as worshippers of the Panchon Pir and the rest, with the exception of 208 Radhaswamis, were accredited to no special form of Hinduism. Of the Vaishnavite sects the strongest is the Ramanandi, which comprises five-sixths of the total number recorded as worshippers of Vishnu, and of the remainder Kabirpanthis comprised more than one half. The great majority of the Saivites are Lingaits, the remainder being almost entirely Pasupats. Generally the older forms of worship are observed and in this, as in other respects, the rural population is little addicted to change.

Hindu castes.

According to the statistics of last census the Hindu population of the district consisted of representatives of no less than

74 different castes, while in the case of 132 persons no caste was specified. Only a few of these, however, are of any great importance. There are four castes with over 50,000 members apiece, together accounting for 42·67 per cent. of the Hindu inhabitants; three others occur in numbers exceeding 20,000, forming 18·99 per cent., and seven more are represented by over 10,000 souls, making an additional 18·93 per cent. The remainder, 19·41 per cent. in all, comprises persons belonging to a great variety of castes, of which some deserve special mention as being either peculiar to this district or else occuring in unusually large numbers, while the rest are common to most parts of the United Provinces and call for no remark.

Chamars. First in point of numbers come Chamars, of whom there are 76,498 representatives or 13·38 per cent. of the Hindu population. They are well distributed throughout all tahsils, being most numerous in Mau and Mahroni; they are fewest in Jhansi and Garautha, where they are outnumbered though not to any important extent by Brahmans. In Moth tahsil they take also a second place behind Lodhis. As usual they form the major portion of the labouring population, both in agriculture and general occupations, and cultivate large areas in generally small holdings for which they pay high rents.

Kachhis. In the second place come Kachhis, numbering 57,900 persons or 10·13 per cent. of the Hindus. They are less evenly distributed than Chamars, being most numerous in Mahroni, Mau and Jhansi, and fewest in Garautha and Lalitpur. They are market gardeners and cultivators of a high order, and the tahsils where they are found in greatest numbers are those in which irrigation is most easily procurable and conditions most suitable for intensive husbandry. The proximity of large markets for their products at Jhansi and Mau-Ranipur also encourages their presence in the neighbourhood of those towns.

Brahmans. Third on the list come Brahmans with 57,742 persons, or 10·10 per cent. of the Hindu population. They hold a strong position in all tahsils, being the most numerous caste in Jhansi and Garautha, but they are less important in the subdivision, especially in Mahroni. Their numbers include Dakshini Pandits and Marwari Brahmans, who settled in the district

during the period of independent Maratha rule, but the latter do not form a large proportion. Over two-thirds of the total number are Jijhotias, Kanaujias and Sanadhs forming the greater part of the remainder. Gaurs and Sarwarias also occur. According to the local tradition the Jijhotias took their name from Jajhar Singh, a celebrated Raja of Hamirpur ; but the name is almost certainly derived from the kingdom of Jajhoti, of which Khujarahu was the capital and which in the 10th century was ruled over by a Brahman king. One tradition gives this king the name of Raja Jujanat, and states that he sent for 13 Brahmans from Kanauj and settled them in his dominions, whence they took their name. Other clans attribute their settlement to Ram Chandra, and it is probable that many came in the train of Rajput immigrants. Both as landholders and as cultivators they are prominent members of the community, and hold in the former capacity 22·30 per cent. of the total area of the district.

Ahirs. The fourth place is taken by Ahirs who, with their kindred clans of Goshi, Gwala, Barar and Kanchedia, number 51,767 or 9·06 per cent. of the Hindu population. They are most numerous in Garautha, Lalitpur and Jhansi tahsils. They claim Muttra as the cradle of their race, and say that in the time of Krishna they were the village Banias of Brindaban; that those who had over 1,000 head of cattle were known as Nandbans, and those with less were called Gwalabans : and the former look down upon the latter. They connect their name Ahir with *ahi*, which means a snake, and say they had an ancestor called Hir who cherished snakes and fed them with milk. They are divided into several subdivisions, but the date of their advent into the district is unknown. As landholders they own 9·15 per cent. of the entire district and are found in greatest numbers in the broken riverine villages, where they combine with agricultural pursuits the breeding of cattle and the manufacture of *ghi*. As cultivators they are slovenly, and in spite of the additional wealth obtained from their professional occupation they have steadily lost ground as landholders.

Gadariyas and Gujars. Akin to Ahirs are Gadariyas and Gujars, the former numbering 19,802 or 3·46 per cent. and the latter only 1,147 or ·22 per cent. of the Hindu inhabitants. Gadariyas are found

in largest numbers in Jhansi and in the same localities as the Ahirs, but they are generally well distributed through all tahsils. As landholders they own an insignificant portion of the land and they are not extensive cultivators, their chief occupation being the rearing and tending of sheep, from the Hindi equivalent of which, *garar*, they derive their name. Gujars are not important as regards number, and two-thirds of them reside in tahsil Jhansi. Formerly they were more numerous, but the majority belonged to villages in the Bhander pargana which have been transferred to Gwalior. In that state and in Samthar and Datia, as well as in the western tract of Jalaun, they form an important part of the population. They are cultivators and shepherds by occupation, but addicted to crimes of violence and unruly. Their origin has been a matter of much speculation; and they themselves say they are descended from Rajputs who migrated from the west to Datia seven hundred years ago, and that when their numbers increased they took to agricultural pursuits.

Lodhis occupy the fifth place among the Hindu castes with a total number of 47,081, or 8·24 per cent of the Hindu population. Here as elsewhere a vague tradition connects them with Ludhiana in the Punjab, but their origin is most uncertain. According to their own report they immigrated into the district from Narwar in Gwalior. Some are the same as and some are distinct from the Maha-Lodhis of Hamirpur, the majority of them being Jariya Lodhis. There is also a vague idea that they are connected in some way with Kurmis, whom they rival if not surpass in agricultural skill. They are probably on the whole the finest cultivators in the district and are most numerous in the Moth tahsil, but they form a substantial portion also of the Hindu inhabitants in Jhansi tahsil and both tahsils of Lalitpur. In the latter tract, especially in the Madaora pargana, another class of Lodhis is met with who call themselves Rajputs. They are found in large numbers in the Central Provinces where the Raja of Hathri, their present chief, resides, and affect the manners and customs of Rajputs. The present head of the Matholia subclan, Umrao Singh,* who styles himself Diwan, Lodhis.

* He has recently died and been succeeded by his son, Narainju.

received the village of Jalandhar in *jagir*, together with some other perquisites for services at the Mutiny. As landlords the Lodhis own 9·63 per cent. of the total area, equally distributed over both parts of the district.

Rajputs.

Rajputs are only sixth on the list of the Hindu inhabitants in Jhansi, their numbers being 34,838 or 6·09 per cent. The proportion is a low one for a tract of country which has always been intimately associated with and regarded as the peculiar possession of Rajput clans. All the main subdivisions of this caste are represented in the district, but many of them contain very insignificant numbers and the numbers of only one exceed 5,000 persons.

Bundela Rajputs.

As might be expected, the most numerous and most important clan with the best known traditions of former greatness is the Bundela. They number 6,231 persons or 17·94 per cent. of the entire Rajput community, and of this amount 4,784 or over two-thirds are to be found in the Lalitpur subdivision. The account of their origin and rise to power in the tract which has since borne their name belongs more properly to the history of the district, and it is sufficient here to say that their advent in Jhansi may be approximately dated at the commencement of the 13th century. They are generally held to be spurious Rajputs of the Gaharwar clan, and all those in the district are descended from one or other of the sons of Rudr Pratap, the founder of Orchha. They have always held a predominant position as landlords, especially in Lalitpur, and are universally respected by the people. A genealogical tree showing the relationship among the various branches of the clan settled in the district will be found in the appendix.

Panwars.

Closely connected with the Bundelas are the Dhunderas and Panwars. These three intermarry with one another and are all closely related, but no very clear traditions are assigned to them. The former, whose numbers were not separately recorded at the census, allege that they settled near Jhansi some 800 years ago and that they are descendants of one Dhandhu, an officer in the army of Prithviraj. In this respect they resemble the Mauhars and Bagris in the Banda district, who have a similar story of their settlement round Mataundh. They are few in number in the district as now constituted, as their chief seat was in a cluster of

villages west of the Pahuj river which were handed over to Gwalior in 1861. It is related that the famous Sohanpal Bundela, son of Arjunpal, married a daughter of a Dhundera of Ganeshkhera.* The Panwars on the other hand number 2,876, over two-thirds of the number again being found in the subdivision. With regard to them the story is told that a Panwar Rajput named Panpal, *jagirdar* of Karahra,† offered Sohanpal assistance against Naga, the Khangar Raja of Kurar. With his help the Bundela chieftain obtained possession of that fort and rose to greatness. He gave his daughter in marriage to Panpal and as a dowry a village named Itaura,‡ while to his younger brother Dayapal he gave a *jagir* worth one lakh of rupees. One Mukatman Chauhan, who was a descendant of Dhandera Deva, which probably means that he was a Dhundera on his mother's side, without actively helping Sohanpal had remained neutral in the quarrel between that chief and the Khangar Raja. To him and to Panpal Sohanpal is alleged to have said: "As no Kshattri in the time of my distress gave me help except you, no other save yourselves shall marry into my family."

More numerous than the Panwars are the Parihars, who number 3,617 persons. They are few and unimportant in the subdivision and are found for the most part in Mau and Garautha and to a much smaller extent in Jhansi tahsil. The head of the family resides in the Jigni state in the north-west corner of tahsil Rath in Hamirpur, and claims descent from Raja Nahar Rao, who originally come from Mount Abu and settled there. Of the three sons of Nahar Rao one received 12 villages on the Jhansi side of the Dhasan and another 12 villages on the Hamirpur side, while the third received the single village of Dumrai in the former direction. Tradition interposes a Parihar dynasty before the Chandels at Mahoba, and a Parihar is said to have been the state *kamdar* of the last Chandel king, Parmal. They still retain traditions of former greatness and doubtless ruled an extensive tract, which probably covered the northern portion of the Jhansi district and extended over Jalaun and parts of Gwalior to the west. **Parihars.**

Next in point of number are the Gaurs with 1,220 representatives, to which must be added 17 Chamar Gaurs. They are late **Gaurs.**

* In Gwalior, 16 miles west of Jhansi. † In Gwalior, 27 miles west of Jhansi.
‡ In Tahsil Jhansi, 13 E.-N.-E. of Jhansi.

immigrants and say they came from Indurkhi less than 400 years ago. They probably form part of the contingent that came west with Hamir Deo Karchuli, the reputed founder of Hamirpur, and so are related to those of the same tribe in the districts further east. They are found in almost equal numbers in every tahsil except Mahroni and Moth, but are actually most numerous in Mau.

Other Rajput clans.

Bais Rajputs number 1,582 and claim to be of the Tilokchandi division, from Daundia Khera in Oudh. Chauhans with 1,211 representatives, to which may be added 420 Bhadaurias, are found equally in all tahsils but Moth. Kachhwahas, with 1,041, Janwars with 869 and Sengars with 854 members apiece, but with no traditions of their origin, are most numerous in Mau, a tahsil which contains more Rajputs among its inhabitants than any other. The first and last of these are probably later immigrants from the not far distant tracts in Gwalior and Jalaun, where their largest settlements are to be found, the former round Kachhwahagarh, and the latter in the neighbourhood of their Raja's home at Jagamanpur. Of other Rajput clans Rathors reside in northern Jhansi and in Moth tahsils, and again in both tahsils of Lalitpur, but are scarce east of the Betwa in Jhansi proper; while there are 509 Dikhits, of whom 439 are confined to Garautha. Besides these there are 16,039 representatives belonging to miscellaneous clans scattered in small numbers over the district. Only 396 Chandels remain, of whom 226 belong to Lalitpur.

Koris and Kushtas.

The seventh place in point of numbers is taken by Koris with 26,630 representatives, forming 4·66 per cent. of the Hindu population. They exist in largest numbers in Mau tahsil, are numerous also in Jhansi, Garautha and Lalitpur, but are very few in Mahroni. They often call themselves Bangars, really a subcaste of Koris, and closely allied to them are Kushtas, of whom there are 906 representatives in Jhansi tahsil. The Koris trace their orgin to Benares, whence they emigrated some 750 years ago, and live for the most part in Jhansi, Mau, Erachh, Gursarai and in the neighbourhood of Bhander. These places were noted for the manufacture of cloth in olden days and the trade is still to a certain extent carried on. The Kushtas, who confine themselves to the

manufacture of silk goods only, say they emigrated from Chanderi, approximately 100 years later than the Koris. Chanderi is still famous for its silk-made goods and muslins.

Khangars. This caste numbers 9,077 members and is scattered throughout the district. It is chiefly interesting on account of a tradition that it once ruled Jhansi, as well as parts of Hamirpur. The headquarters of the clan were at fort Kurar now actually situated in Orchha territory, and the Khangar Rajas who established their rule after the break-up of the Chandel kingdom called themselves Rajputs. At the present day they rank among the lowest of the population, and are enlisted largely as *chaukidars*. In this respect they hold a similar position to the Arakhs of Banda and the Pasis of Oudh, with the former of whom they intermarry and with whom they appear to be otherwise closely related.

Jungle tribes. Only 63 Gonds, all males, were recorded at the census of 1901 and they were in the Jhansi tahsil. But there has almost certainly been a mistake in classification, for 525 members of this caste were recorded in Lalitpur alone in 1891. They are practically confined to the four villages of Bandgawan, Papra, Gonthra and Lakhanjhir in the south-east of pargana Madaora, but are numerous in the Central Provinces. They call themselves Raj Gonds, and are without doubt remnants of the tribe that once held sway in the extensive tract of country on either side of the Nerbada known as Gondwana. They are easily distinguishable by their flat features, dark complexions and generally wild appearance. Closely associated with them are the Saherias, also termed Sonr or Rawat. These number 7,487 and are practically confined to the subdivision. The Saherias are lower in the scale of humanity than Gonds: they are woodmen pure and simple, the jungle is their home and provides them directly or indirectly with their means of subsistence. They eke out a precarious existence by a little *dhaiya* cultivation. This consists in cutting down and burning the jungle over a suitable area in the hot weather: on this area *juar*, or some inferior millet, is sown at the break of the rains. The fertilisation afforded by the ashes of consumed jungle growths lasts rarely for more than two years, and this wasteful system

of agriculture has now been prohibited in the Government forests.

Other Hindu tribes.

Of other Hindu tribes whose existence is important or peculiar to the district mention may be made of the Kurmis: they number 18,239 persons or 3·19 per cent. of the Hindu population. They are very evenly distributed throughout the district and the bulk belong to no particular well-known subclan. As cultivators they are among the best, and as landholders possess 6·50 of the total area of the district, the greater part of this being in Jhansi proper. An agricultural caste, which is practically peculiar to the district, is that of Dangis, numbering 1,382 members. Five-sixths of these are found in tahsil Moth to the north of the district, and they profess to be descended from Raja Dang, a Raghubansi Rajput, and to be immigrants from Narwar. There is some reason to connect them with Gonds and similar races of the Central India plateau. The Basors number 8,837 and are also known as Barars and Dhanuks, though of the latter 785 are separately enumerated. The name of the tribe seems to mean "worker in the bamboo" and to be the same as Bansphor. They have no tradition of their origin: they take in part the place of Bhangis and are generally regarded as a subcaste of Doms. The Sejwaris who are found nowhere else in the united Provinces, are generally servants of the Bundelas. They are peculiar to Lalitpur and only number 138. The story told of their origin is that when Maharaja Debi Singh of Chanderi went to attack Maler Kotla he brought from there four boys, one of whom he appointed to arrange his bed (*sej*), whence their name.

Musalmans.

The total Musalman population in 1901 numbered 30,899 persons. It comprised representatives of 35 different castes but the majority of these included insignificant numbers, and in the case of 64 persons no caste was specified. Of the whole number 30,232, or 97·8 per cent., were returned as Sunnis and 586 or 2·2 per cent. as Shias: there were 53 Lalbegis, all females, 7 Wahabis and 21 males of unspecified sect. Musalmans form a very small proportion of the population and no town in the district is marked by prominent mosques or places of worship. Neither as landholders nor as cultivators are they important, and they are for the most part congregated in the larger towns

of which Jhansi, Mau and Lalitpur are the chief. The majority are Sheikhs, who amount to 13,175 in number or 42·64 of the whole Musalman population. Sheikhs are followed by Pathans with 6,268 representatives, forming 20 per cent. of the total; and these in turn by Behnas with 4,529 and Saiyids with 2,494 representatives. All these exist in largest numbers in Jhansi tahsil, with the exception of Behnas or cotton carders, who are numerically strongest in Mau-Ranipur. There are 1,162 Bhangis professing the faith of Islam, 555 Kunjras and 506 Nats. Mughals only number 354 and there is a noticeable absence of Muhammadan Rajputs, of whom there are but 243. Qassabs, Bhistis and Julahas call for no further mention.

Occupations. The majority of the people are dependent on agriculture for their subsistence. The returns of the last census show that 56·5 per cent. of the population were agriculturists whether as landlords, tenants, field labourers, farm servants or agents and growers of special products. To these may be added 18,341 persons engaged in the provision and care of animals, making the total of those who support themselves by agriculture or allied occupations, 59·5 per cent. The number appears to have increased. In 1865, when however the district was somewhat differently constituted, 52·2 per cent. of the population were returned as engaged in pasture and agriculture. In 1891, when the district had assumed its present proportions, the percentage had risen to 56·6 per cent. The industrial population amounted to 19·2 per cent., a high proportion: this class includes all those engaged in the preparation and supply of material substances, of which articles of food and drink accounted for nearly one-third, and textile fabrics and cognate trades over one-fourth. General labour other than agricultural made up 8·15 per cent. and personal and domestic service 7·6 per cent. Next came commerce, transport and storage with 2·6 per cent., the commercial population proper being only ·8 per cent.; those engaged in administrations whether civil or military, 1·9 per cent., those independent of any occupation, 1·6 per cent., and lastly the professional population, 1·4 per cent.

Criminal tribes. The district contains one well-known criminal tribe. The Sanorias or Uthaigiris of Lalitpur are chiefly found in the villages

of Bir and Sunwaho, but exist in far greater numbers in the adjoining portions of the Orchha state, this tract together with two separate villages situated far away in Datia forming their *Baragaon* or circle of 12 villages. According to one account these villages were granted to a Sanoria Brahman by one of the Mughal emperors as a reward for killing Bhaga Banjara, a legendary person for whose murder more than one family in Lalitpur claims to have received grants of land. According to Major Harris, superintendent of Chanderi, in 1857 these 12 villages comprised Charpuan, Harpura, Jamrar, Karmari and Manora in Orchha; Banpur, Bir and Udia in the Banpur state; Madaora in Shahgarh; and Rori and Parhri in Datia. A list, however, furnished by one of the fraternity now resident at Bir substitutes for the last three names those of Dhawari, Parwan and Nawari now in Mahroni tahsil, and adds Pahari in Orchha. One tradition says that the tribe was excommunicated because its members attended the feast given by Ram Chandra when he was defiled by the blood of Ravana, and another that they were degraded "because they did not attend the sacrifice performed by Brahma at Bithur." A more likely origin is to be found in the story that some Sanorias, considering thieving a more profitable source of livelihood than begging, adopted it, settled in the Baragaon, were excommunicated by their more respectable caste-fellows, and began in consequence to recruit their numbers from any caste except Banias, Chamars and Mehtars. The Sanorias are not a caste, but a confraternity of thieves which enlarges itself by the imitation of likely boys, and the son of a Sanoria is not necessarily a Sanoria. They possess a slang vocabulary of their own, and communicate with one another, when on an expedition, largely by signs, the token of mutual recognition being said to be the tapping of the top of the head twice with the hand and at the same time pointing the elbow at the supposed confrere. They confine themselves to theft by day and are reported to be bound by oath to abstain from nocturnal theft, house-breaking or crimes of violence, while such as fail to observe this rule are expelled from the community. Their depredations are begun at least 100 miles away from home, and though they visit all parts of India they are rarely found anywhere north of their

headquarters. Having appointed a headman and consulted the favourite Brahman priest regarding the auspicious time for departure, and the most promising direction, their custom was to start off in gangs (called *nal*) after the Dasahra; these gangs on arriving between one and two hundred miles from home would separate, after fixing a rendezvous where all should meet in the following July. If by that time the share of each in the loot, which was equally divided, amounted to Rs. 40, they returned home and devoted themselves to the sowing of *kharif* crops. If their expectations were not realised they parted once more in fresh directions, and sometimes remained absent for several years on end. Their favourite method of shop-lifting was to disguise themselves as respectable merchants or travellers and engage a shopkeeper in conversation, leading him to display his goods, while a boy was employed to steal what he could; and the fascination of their profession was so great that no inducement was sufficient to make them give it up. In 1874 they had regular headquarters established in various parts of India, where a number of Sanorias maintained an organization for the disposal of such stolen articles as could not be conveniently taken to the Baragaon. These were known to exist at Calcutta, Burdwan, Rajmahal, Bombay, Baroda, Ahmadabad and Amraoti.

In 1851 there were said to be about 4,000 of this tribe in Orchha, 300 in Banpur and 300 in Datia. At that time a special officer was appointed by the Orchha state to supervise their villages, to settle disputes arising from unfair division of the spoil, and to select any specially suitable article for the Raja himself. Both the Rajas of Orchha and Banpur frankly acknowledged their protection of these people when addressed on the subject by the political agent. From 1864 to 1874 they were kept under police surveillance, and in the latter year the Criminal Tribes Act (XXVII of 1871) was extended to them. They have since remained subject to the provisions of that Act. In 1883 the Government consented to an attempt being made to settle Sanorias on state land in Bir and Sunwaho, and between 1884 and 1891 about Rs. 1,800 was expended in the experiment. It proved to be a failure and could hardly have turned out otherwise, considering that 90 per cent. of the tribe live in independent territory. At the present time there

are about 125 of the fraternity residing in and around Bir and Sunwaho, but a few also live at Sonjna.

Language and literature. The ordinary language of the bulk of the inhabitants is standard Bundeli or Bundelkhandi: a few immigrants from the Deccan speak Marathi, and some comb-makers said to have immigrated from Ajmer two hundred years ago are reported to speak a variety of the Banjari dialect. Better educated people in the towns speak western Hindi or Urdu. The Bundeli dialect is frequently puzzling to the resident of the Doab, not only from the variations introduced into the terminations of nouns and verbs and the regular use of diminutives, but from the common use of words which are probably of Gond or other non-Aryan origin.* The literature of the district is not of much importance, though a few names of authors native to it are on record. One of these named Nawal Singh, a Kayasth born at Jhansi in 1841, was a poet of some reputation who lived most of his life at the court of Samthar. A contemporary of his, by name Hirdeo, born in 1844, wrote a work called the "Srinagar Nab Ras." Mau-Ranipur has the honour of producing two poets of local celebrity; one of these, Kunj Lal by name, was born in 1855, while the other, Jankes, who flourished at the same period, migrated to the court of Chhatarpur.

Chief proprietors. There are few large estates in the district, and the constant tendency is towards subdivision. The bulk of the land is owned by impoverished Rajput families with numerous members and big pretensions; and, excluding a few Banias and Marwaris, the only estates of any size are those held by *muafidars* or *ubaridars*.

Gursarai. The largest proprietor is the Dakshini Brahman family headed by the Bhao Sahib of Gursarai. Gobind Rao and Bala Rao, sons of Nur Singh Pandit, came from Poona in 1725 A.D. in the train of the Marathas. They were appointed by the Peshwa to the management of property in Jhansi and Jalaun. In 1776 A.D. the jurisdiction was divided and, while Gobind Rao's sons took Jalaun, Bala Rao took Gursarai. He was succeeded by his son Dinkar Rao Ana, who died in 1831 A.D. Balkrishn Rao and Kesho Rao, sons of Dinkar Rao, managed the

* The final settlement report of Messrs. Impey and Meston gives a list of a large number of these, 1892.

property till 1838, when the former died, leaving the latter in possession. On the death of Gobind Rao of Jalaun, in 1840, Kesho Rao claimed the Jalaun state as heir, but his claim was disallowed. The earliest document relating to the family is dated October 8th, 1852; this contains a provision that the British Government are not bound by family arrangements unsecured by deed when an incumbent dies. All this time Kesho Rao was sole proprietor of the estate, which paid a *ubari jama* of Rs. 22,000. He subsequently distinguished himself by loyalty at the Mutiny. Kesho Rao had seven sons, one of whom, namely Atma Ram, was adopted by Balkrishn Rao before his death. The eldest son, Sheo Ram, turned rebel at the Mutiny. By a family compact attested before the deputy commissioner in 1866 the family members agreed that Atma Ram should succeed to the title of Raja and half the property, that the other five sons should have the remainder and that the *ubari* should be raised to Rs. 25,000, some villages in Jalaun being at the same time resumed. The sanction of the Secretary of State was obtained on February 27th, 1867. In 1872 the Local Government reviewed the position of the *jagir*. At that time Raja Kesho Rao, as well as two of his sons, possessed extensive criminal, civil and revenue powers and was responsible for the general internal administration of his estate. The Lieutenant-Governor placed on record his desire to maintain the *jagirdar* in his dignities, and it was laid down that so long as the roads, primary schools and village police were maintained in a state of efficiency and strength corresponding with that which existed in the rest of the district, the local cess of 10 per cent. on the annual value would continue not to be imposed. In 1880 Raja Kesho Rao died, and immediately disputes arose among his sons. Two years later the title of Raja Bahadur was conferred on Atma Ram, who held possession of the estate for life or pending good behaviour; but owing to the disturbed state of the family relations, civil, revenue, police and magisterial powers were withheld, though for a time Raja Atma Ram was allowed to exercise them in part. In 1887 regular police were appointed, and all arrangements for an amicable settlement of the disputes having failed the family were left to decide matters for themselves,

resumption being at the same time threatened if any attempt were made to break up the estate. Litigation ensued, five brothers claiming the whole estate on the ground that Atma Ram had been adopted out of the family. The High Court dismissed the claim on appeal, holding the parties to the agreement of 1866 and the orders of Government passed thereon. In 1893, the 12 per cent. cess was imposed on an assumed demand of Rs. 50,000. Raja Atma Ram died in 1894, and legally the estate should have been resumed at full revenue; but as this involved unmerited hardship on the other co-sharers, another attempt was made to settle the family disputes while returning the *ubari* demand. A survey and a summary settlement were made by the collector in 1895, and a more complete settlement was carried out by Mr. Fremantle in 1896 and 1897; but the latter never came into force as the estate was taken under direct management. An appeal to the Privy Council against the High Court's decision of 1890 resulted in a ruling that partition was admissible, the former Raja being declared owner of half the property. In 1902 the family differences were adjusted and the estate was returned to it under the management of Srimant Balkrishn Rao Bhao Sahib, the *ubari* payment being reduced from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 20,000. At the same time the revenues of the under proprietors were refixed by the collector. Lastly, in 1906, the different classes of holdings were all assessed separately to revenue, and all of them, with the exception of the *zabti* area belonging to the *ubaridars* themselves, were brought under the new rules for quinquennial revision of revenue. The estate contains sixty-five villages and has an area of 155 square miles: 18 villages lie in Moth tahsil and the rest in Garautha.

Raja of Katera.

The Raja of Katera is descended from the same parent Bundela stock as the Maharaja of Orchha. His *jagir* was originally granted to an ancestor of the present chief for maintenance. At the British occupation the chief was Senapat Singh, who for services rendered at the Mutiny received the little of Raja Bahadur and a *khilat* of Rs. 5,000. He was succeeded by his adopted son Raja Ranmast Singh, who died in 1877. The first nominee, Balwant Singh, was not accepted as head of the family, and in 1880 Sardar Singh with the title of Raja Bahadur was

appointed. The estate now consists of eight whole villages and half shares in three others. The village of Katera was granted revenue-free in perpetuity to Senapat Singh, and the resumption of five other villages was postponed for two generations. The privileges as regards these five villages were again extended to Raja Sardar Singh on his succession, on condition that he continued the allowance to other members of the family as before.

Kakarwai

The Rao of Kakarwai has a title of native origin. Family tradition says that Madho Singh, son of Bir Singh Deo of Orchha, received 96 villages in *jagir* from his father. Madho Singh was succeeded by his nephew Dirgban Singh, on whose death the property was divided between his three sons, Kirat Singh (39 villages), Sawant Singh (29 villages) and Rai Singh (28 villages). In 1742, when a distribution of territory was made between the Peshwa and the Raja of Orchha, the whole *jagir* fell into the Maratha share and they at once resumed 56 villages. Of the remaining 40, 26 were subsequently resumed by the *subahdars* of Jhansi owing to some disputes, and one village, *mauza* Gahroni, was given to the family priest, from whom it was also subsequently resumed. The thirteen villages thus remaining in the hands of the *ubaridars* were Siya, Bararu, Motikatra and Nipan, held by the descendants of Kirat Singh; Kakarwai, Kachir, Dhamnaur, Kharka, Hiranagar and Dumrai, held by the descendants of Sawant Singh; and Iskil and Sujanpura held by those of Rai Singh. All retained shares in Dhurkuru, where the family had originally settled and from which they spread themselves over the *Ghar*, displacing the older Parihar colonists. The Kakarwai branch was for some unknown reason held by the Marathas to be the leading one and confirmed in perpetuity, while the other two shares were apparently never confirmed. In 1823 a division into six branches, namely, Kakarwai, Siya-Bararu, Motikatra, Nipan, Iskil and Sujanpura seems to have been recognised. At the present day, owing to the sale of Sujanpura under the Encumbered Estates Act of 1882 and the reversion of Motikatra to the Siya-Bararu branch, the whole *jagir* consists of four estates. The Kakarwai estates comprise the villages of

* Burwa, Dhaipura, Ghurat, Kharka and Rataura.

Kachir, Dhamnaur, Hiranagar, Kharka and Dumrai entirely, fifteen annas of Kakarwai, and a little over one quarter of Dhurkuru. The Siya-Bararu *ubari* consists of the entire villages of Siya-Bararu and Motikatra and one and a half annas in Dhurkuru: the Nipan estate of that village and nearly three annas of Dhurkuru; and the Iskil estate of nearly half Iskil together with a little less than three annas of Dhurkuru. The rest of the property has been lost. The title of Rao is said to have been conferred by a Raja of Panna, and has always been recognised by the British Government. The Rao of the time rendered good services during the Mutiny, and his tenure was declared maintainable in perpetuity in 1868. The family is impoverished and the estate comprises an area of 23,424 acres, all situated in tahsil Garautha, paying an *ubari* demand of Rs. 436 only. A *nazrana* of one year's full revenue is also leviable from the successor of an incumbent who dies.

The Algi *jagir*. Khande Rao Mulhar is a Dakshini Brahman and the grantee of property known as the Algi *jagir*. He resides in the Gwalior state, only seven out of his fifteen villages being situated in Jhansi. His brother Balkrishn Rao shares the *zamindari* right. The grant was originally blood-money wrung from the Orchha state in 1733 by the Peshwa on account of the murder of one of his officers, the great-great-grandfather of the present *jagirdar*.

Chief Rajput families. Large Rajput landholding bodies, as distinct from single proprietors, occupy an important position in the district. In Jhansi proper the only one that deserves mention is the Dhundhera family that has its headquarters at Kumharra on the Pahuj. This family once owned the Nand *taluqa* with several forts and considerable demesnes. They now hold the greater part of seven villages in Moth, but are in indifferent circumstances. In Lalitpur Rajput families are numerous.

The Narhat *ubaridars*. The Narhat *ubaridars* together with the Bundelas of Sindwaha, Guna and Dongra Kalan trace their descent from Chandar Das or Rao Chand Pahar, a younger son of Rudr Pratap, Raja of Orchha, who became Raja of Katera in Jhansi proper. His son Rao Jet Singh came to Sindwaha about 1556. Rao Jet Singh's elder son, Rao Kalyan Rai, took Narhat about 1594 and settled there. He received a *sanad* from Raj Bahadur, the *subahdar* of Saugor, but lost both *sanad* and *jagir* during the

fighting between Raja Pirthi Singh of Garhakota and Pandit Bichaji, the Maratha governor of Saugor in 1760. The family regained the latter in the following year, only to lose it again in 1768 after a battle with Bichaji at Amjhara Ghat. The estate, however, was restored on an annual payment of Rs. 3,200. It was confirmed on these terms by Colonel Filose* in 1812, and in 1818 passed into the power of the British with the rest of the Saugor district. In 1819 Mr. Maddock, agent to the Governor-General, split the estate into two portions. The portion lying below the Vindhyan hills he settled with Rao Bijai Bahadur and Diwan Nirwo Singh jointly at an *ubari* demand of Rs. 5,000, subsequently raised to Rs. 6,200 per annum; while that of Amai now in the Saugor district, was settled with another branch of the family. About 1826 Diwan Hira Singh, son of Nirwo Singh, and others revolted, plundering Dhamoni and other places. Hira Singh was pardoned; but a heavy fine was inflicted on the estate, and the village of Muria was at the same time separately assigned for his maintenance. Diwan Nirwo Singh died in 1837 and was succeeded by Hira Singh. Between him and Rao Bijai Bahadur a feud existed which still to some extent survives between their descendants. In 1841-42 the whole family became deeply implicated in some disturbances at Narhat, including an attack on a body of *sowars* stationed in the fort, and that town was burnt by troops in 1843. In the following year Hira Singh died and was succeeded by his son Parichhat, who is still living; and in 1845 the whole estate was divided† and settled with the various co-sharers. Until that year the *ubaridars* were responsible for the policing of their estate and for the good conduct of the inhabitants; and were permitted to levy tolls on all laden cattle passing up the *ghats*, maintaining outposts for this purpose at Nayagaon, Khiria and Amjhara. This right had been confirmed by Colonel Filose in 1812, and by the British both in 1822 and 1832, but was abolished in 1845. In 1857 Rao Bijai Bahadur died and was succeeded by his grandson, whom he had adopted, called Rao Bakht Bali. The *ubari* was renewed in 1854 for 30

* His real name was Jean Baptiste Filose, but he is generally known in the district as Colonel Baptiste or Battisi.

† The *ubari* villages of Sakto and Kakarua were separated from Narhat in 1844, just before this.

years at an assessment of 45 per cent. on the assets or a total of Rs. 4,464, levied on twenty villages. In 1867 Barchon, Budhni-Narhat, Daulatpur, Maharajpur and Taraoli were settled on ordinary *zamindari* tenure. In the remainder the *ubari* tenure was renewed for another thirty years in 1882, on the usual condition of good behaviour, the demand being reduced by ten per cent. on the full normal demand of 45 per cent. of the assets, but the assessment was not revised till 1896. The *ubari* right was lost in Bamrana in 1899, owing to a sale of part of it, and the whole estate now consists of the fourteen villages of Arjun Khiria, Baniana, Bareja, Bhonti-Narhat, Denpura, Gadanpur, Khairai, Labno, Makripur, Muria, Narhat, Nayagaon, Parse and Sarkhari, paying a total revenue of Rs. 1,893. The period sanctioned for the continuance of the privilege of paying 10 per cent. less than the full assessable demand will expire in 1912. The present heads of the family are Rao Pahar Singh, son of Rao Bakht Bali, and Diwan Parichhat.

Sindwaha and Guna.

Intimately connected with the Narhat *ubaridars* are the Bundelas of Sindwaha and Guna. Both trace their descent from Madho Singh, the brother of Rao Kalyan Singh, who founded Narhat. One of Madho Singh's sons remained at Sindwaha, and the other two, by name Bikramajit Singh and Tilok Singh, went to Guna. About the year 1700 Raja Debi Singh of Chanderi gave Sindwaha in *jagir* to the family, and to this grant Raja Chhatarsal of Panna, the great Bundela chief, added six more villages. The *jagir* was resumed by the Marathas and settled at an *ubari* demand of Rs. 1,800 towards the close of the eighteenth century, and the *ubari* privilege was continued by the British Government. Owing to rebellious conduct at the Mutiny the privilege was cancelled for all members of the family except Zalim Singh, the father of Kunwar Bharatju, who is the present head of the family. To Zalim Singh only the title was left without any diminution of the demand. The villages* which compose the estate were transferred from Saugor to Lalitpur in 1861, and are the same as those originally granted; but they are now held separately and some are heavily encumbered.

* Sindwaha, Bachhre, Bamori-Sindwaha, Guna, Jamora, Jiloni and Patna-Sindwaha: the last six were a grant of Raja Chhatarsal.

Bundelas of Dongra Kalán. The Bundelas of Dongra Kalan, pargana Madaora, trace their descent to Udebhan, son of Kalyan Singh, the founder of Narhat. They claim to have acquired 16 villages in pargana Madaora, of all of which they were deprived by Raja Hari Singh of Garhakota. Later in 1747 that same prince restored seven villages, not however all the same as those previously held, on an *ubari* rent of 1,200 Gajashahi rupees. These seven villages, consisting of Bargana, Dongra Kalan, Gurha Khiria, Khiria *ubari*, Machahrka, Malaua and Piyara, were confirmed to them by the British in 1859, the demand being reduced to Rs. 1,000 King's coin.

Bundelas of Gidwaho and Girar. The Bundelas of Gidwaho and Girar are descendants of Man Sah, grandson of Rudr Pratap, and belong to the same branch as the Rajas of Panna, Ajaigarh and Charkhari. They hold four villages* in *jagir* and one, namely Barwar, on *ubari* tenure, and received them as a reward for Mutiny services.

Bundelas of Bhailoni-Suba. The Bundelas of Bhailoni-Suba are descended from Suba Sahib Bhawanpal, the youngest son of Ram Chand, Raja of Chanderi from 1795 to 1810, and brother of Mur Pahlad, Raja of Banpur. Bhawanpal received 12 villages in *jagir* in 1800. At the Batota treaty of 1830, the fixation of an *ubari* demand having been decided on, it was agreed that ten should be surrendered and the remaining two, namely, Bhailoni and Jijarwara, held in *jagir*. This arrangement has been continued, and in 1864 two-thirds of the village of Banpur were settled with the family in *zamindari* tenure. The present head of the family is Kunwar Nirpat Singh.

Bundelas of Pali. The Bundelas of Pali in pargana Balabehat are descended from Zorawar Singh, son of Durjan Singh, Raja of Chanderi from 1743 to 1758. The latter gave his son, Zorawar, a *jagir* near Pali and Dongra worth Rs. 12,000. Shortly after 1780 the Marathas confiscated the *sanad* but substituted one for twenty-two other villages. Within the next ten years 13 villages were added by the Chanderi princes, and three more later by Mur Pahlad, the last Raja of Chanderi. At the Batota treaty of 1830 the whole estate except 17 villages was confiscated, and these were also subsequently resumed by Colonel Filose on account of the resistance of Dariao Singh, one of the family, at the battle

* Girar, Imilia Khurd, Garauli *muafi* and Dagdagi.

of Pali. Five villages however were restored in *jagir* on payment of a fine of Rs. 8,500. In 1854 Major Harris, superintendent of Chanderi, divided the estate between the brothers, Rao Hamir Singh and Kunwar Mardan Singh, the latter receiving Barethi, Kaithora, Rajgarh (now a *mahal* of *mauza* Pali) and two-fifths of the Pali *pan* gardens, Hamir Singh receiving Chandera, Pali and the rest of the *pan* gardens. Rao Hamir Singh took an active part in the Mutiny and failed to surrender under the following amnesty. His share in the *jagir* was confiscated and settled with his brother in *zamindari* tenure. His son, Nirwe Singh, was a minor at the time, and was granted one-third of the village of Banpur for his support, which he has since lost. The present representatives of the family are three minor sons of Kunwar Bhupat Singh, son of Kunwar Mardan Singh. Of the same family are the Bundelas of Gadiana, who retain five and a half villages* in parganas Banpur and Lalitpur.

Gadiana.

Bundelas of Jakhlon.

Perhaps the most important Bundela family in the subdivision is that of Jakhlon. It is descended from Raja Ram Sah of Bar. His grandson, Rao Krishn Rao, received a *jagir* in and around Bansi valued at Rs. 75,000 in 1643 A. D. The emperor bestowed on Makund Singh, son of Udebhan, who was killed while fighting with the imperial armies at Kabul and was the child of Rao Krishn Rao, the title of Diwan and 58 villages in pargana Etawah, which then included the south-west corner of the subdivision but is now in Saugor. These he held in addition to his share in the Bansi *jagir* valued at Rs. 27,000. Of Makund Singh's two sons one, by name Narainju, succeeded to the northern portion of the estate and was killed in 1737 while fighting near Datia. The estate descended to Dhurmangad Singh, and was divided at his death in 1794 among his four sons Chithar Singh and Udiajit, who received three-eighths each, and Bakht Singh and Umrao Singh who received one-eighth each. The whole family took an active part in the confused wars at the end of the eighteenth century. Diwan Bakht Singh built the fort at Nanora and is ancestor of Diwan Bijai Bahadur Raghubir Singh now resident there; while Kunwar Umrao Singh, ancestor of Kunwar Debi Singh of Jakhlon built the fort at Baroda-

* Bajarra, Banoni, Gadiana, Karmai, Khajuria and part of Baro.

Swami, Chithar Singh that at Chatra and Udiajit that at Datia, 8 miles south-west of Jakhlon. The two former are the most important representatives of the family. Their estates consist of 19 villages* in pargana Balabehat, 9 of which they hold in *jagir*; 8 villages in pargana Lalitpur,† 6 in Bansi ‡ and 2 in Banpur,§ of which 5, 3 and 2, respectively, are in *jagir*. In addition to these whole villages they have shares in twelve others || scattered over the same parganas, and some estates in Gwalior and Saugor. They also receive a cash payment from the Gwalior state. Closely related to them are the Bundela families of Agar, Kotra, Lakhanpura, Muharo, Rajwara and Gugarwara, who are all descended from Bishan Rai, brother of Udebhan. The most important of these is the Rajwara ¶ family, the representative of which, Rao Debi Singh, holds the villages of Chaurro and Bhagwaho in *jagir*, and Dhoban-Kheri, Kandhari Kalan, Kharobra and Rajwara on *ubari* tenure. **Rajwara.**

Bundelas of Delwara. The Bundelas of Delwara in pargana Lalitpur, with their kinsmen at Dongra in pargana Balabehat, are descended from Bithal Das, a son of Raja Ram Sah, who settled at Delwara. Of his two sons the elder, Basant Rai, remained at that place, and Nawal Sah the younger went to Dongra. The descendants of the former hold three villages** in *jagir*. The Dongra branch were granted in 1837 three villages in *jagir*†† and six in *ubari* tenure.‡‡ They

* Bijori, Chira-Konrar, Datia (J), Dhojari (J), Dongaria, Hardari, Jhilgaon (J), Kapasi (J), Kanpura (J), Kuchdon, Mandon, Manik-Chauk (J), Mekhwan (J), Piao, Piparia-Jagir (J), Piprai, Rampura (J), Saipura-Munzabta and Sukhpura.

† Alapur (J), Chaunsa, Gudawal (J), Jakhlon (J), Karmoharo (J), Mehrti Khurd (J), Paroria and Tenga.

‡ Baroda-Swami, Gora, Mainwar, Nanora (J), Nohar Khurd (J), and Sankarwar Kalan (J).

§ Gangohari (J) and Simaria (J).

|| Jamunia, Giltora, Saipura-Khalsa in Balabehat; Barod, Bhesra, Chauka, Mehrti Kalan, Piparia-Bansa, Milaoni, in Lalitpur; Binaika-Toran in Bansi; and Banpur and Bartala in Banpur.

¶ *Vide* Manual of Titles, p. 82.

** Baktar, Delwara and Siron Khurd.

†† Dongra, Dorna and Bangaria.

‡‡ Betna, Kalro, Salaiya, Kathora, Uldhana Kalan and Suri Kalan.

retain these still, but the *ubari* villages are accompanied by no reduction in the demand. Several members of the family have from time to time been implicated in dacoity, especially of the Dongra branch, and the property is generally mismanaged and deeply encumbered.

Other land-holders. Of other prominent landholders may be mentioned the *muafidars* of Marora in Jhansi and Laraora in Moth; Raghunath Rao, a Gwalior courtier and *ex-muafidar*, who owns four villages in tahsil Jhansi; Seth Gulab Chand, of Jhansi, whose purchases lie mostly in Garautha; Chaube Janki Parshad, *lambardar* of Lalitpur, who is descended from a Muttra family induced to settle in the district by a former Raja of Chanderi; the Panwars of Sonrai, the descendants of Rajaji, brother-in-law of the last Raja of Shahgarh, who own nine villages in Madaora; and the Alexanders of Jaria. The last named family is descended from a Frenchman who was in Sindhia's service towards the close of the eighteenth century. His son was Major Joseph Alexander, whose grandson the present *jagirdar* is. Jaria and a garden at Sindwaha were granted to Major Alexander's son in *jagir*, and the family have since acquired a share in the village of Singhpur. They have intermarried with natives of the country but remain faithful to their religion, which is Roman Catholic.

Cultivating tenures. At the settlement concluded in 1906 the proportion of the holdings area in the hands of the proprietors themselves was found to be 28·5 per cent., while of the rest 66·5 per cent. was held by rent-paying tenants and 5 per cent. was rent-free. The figures for the two parts of the district exhibit considerable variations. The proprietary cultivation exceeds 33 per cent. in Jhansi proper, but is only 22·4 per cent. in Lalitpur. As regards tahsils it is fairly equally divided in Moth, Garautha and Mau and is least in Jhansi, but in Lalitpur there is little difference in the various parganas. The actual cultivated area so held is 35·52 per cent. of the total area under the plough in Jhansi proper and 22·35 per cent. in the subdivision, but while there has been a decrease from 36·15 per cent. in the former tract since the previous settlement there has been an increase in the latter from 19·96 per cent. The general result on holdings area is a decrease of less than one per cent., so that the proportion of this

class of land has remained fairly constant. The smaller proportion in Lalitpur is due to the fact that much of the land belongs to Rajput communities who are unwilling to cultivate themselves. The rent-free area has decreased from 6·82 to 4·77 per cent. of the holdings area, but the decrease is entirely due to the reclassification of rent-free *naugir* land in Lalitpur, which at the recent settlement was transferred to the head of non-occupancy tenants. At the same time the proportion has increased from 3·93 to 5·54 per cent. in Jhansi proper.

Proprietary tenures. The land tenures now prevailing in this district are the same as those found throughout the province of Agra, with the exception of the peculiar local *ubari* tenure and some tenures in the Gursarai estate. At the present time the district contains 2,075 separate *mahals*, with an average cultivated area of 348 acres apiece, and of these 364, representing 17·5 per cent. of the whole, are held in single and 1,024 or 49·3 per cent. in joint *zamindari*; 96 or 4·6 per cent. in perfect, 569 or 21·0 per cent. in imperfect *pattidari*; while only 22 or 1·2 per cent. come under the head of *bhaiyachara*. Jhansi was described in 1892 as "essentially a district of small proprietors," and though in this respect there have been changes most of the land is still in the hands of self-cultivating proprietary communities. There were in the northern part of the district 415 estates held by *pattidari* communities out of a total of 739 at that settlement. By partition and subdivision this number had grown to 1,279 at the settlement of 1906, and many of the joint *zamindari* estates appear to be little but subdivided *zamindari* and *pattidari* ones, in which the owners cultivate their own now separated shares. The different forms of tenure are fairly equally divided over all the tahsils. In Lalitpur there has been little change. The number of estates held in joint *zamindari* and perfect or imperfect *pattidari* has increased at the expense of those held by single landholders. This is a natural result of subdivision among the numerous Rajput families that predominate as landlords in that part of the district.

History of proprietary rights in Jhansi. The history of proprietary rights in Jhansi proper is somewhat complicated, but it is interesting because it shows how proprietary right originated under the revenue system of the British. In this

part of the district, under the Maratha government that preceded British rule, proprietary rights were only exceptionally recognized and very rarely respected. The villages were held by cultivating communities, and the only right beyond the mere cultivating right that was acknowledged was the right of headmen, called *mehti*, to receive the *mehut* or *chakari* allowance. The *haq mehut* or *haq chakari* took the shape either of a money dole paid in cash or deducted from the rental, or of a grant of land, and was a payment for and contingent on the performance of certain services withdrawable at the pleasure of the state. Generally the persons selected as headmen were the lineal descendants of the oldest branch of the family cultivating the village. In villages held by cultivators of more than one caste or *gotra*, each caste or *gotra* was represented by one or more *mehtis*, and the *mehut* allowance of land or money was allotted to the representatives of each in amounts corresponding to the amount of land in possession of the brotherhood, or, as was sometimes the case, according to acknowledged *pattis* or subdivisions. The latter were not spoken of as so many annas in the rupee but as the third, fourth, eighth, etc., of the village, as might happen to be case. The *mehtis* sometimes reserved the allowance for themselves and sometimes shared it with their near relatives or other members of the brotherhood, according to established custom. The *mehut* allowance and the custom of distributing it is the basis on which proprietary right in the district has grown up. Under Maratha rule ancestral shares were unknown: each caste and each family held the lands which it had inherited from its ancestors, and what for the time each held was the measure of his property. In some villages, however, in which there were certain acknowledged *thoks* and *pattis*, it was the custom to have a redistribution of the land whenever any one or more *pattis* were found to contain less land in extent and value than the fractional share of the village which they represented. In such cases *fards* or lists showing the land redistributed were drawn up either by the parties themselves or by arbitrators. As from time to time the several portions of the district came under British rule the system of making summary settlements was introduced, and these were naturally made with the *mehtis* of each village. No enquiry was made into the status

of the other members of the brotherhood or of the resident cultivators, and the *mehtis* became transformed into representatives or *lambardars* entrusted with the management of the village and the collection and payment of the Government demand.

The latter at first was calculated to leave the now recognised landholder merely a sum to recompense him for his trouble in collecting and paying in the revenue; but as time went on the proportion representing the state demand was gradually reduced, and all that could be realized besides the revenue was profit to the *lambardar*. A strong desire was thus created among the other members to partake in the prosperity that had begun to dawn, claims to these profits were preferred, disputes arose and, as a solution of the difficulty, *qanungos* and *patwaris* were directed to draw up for every village without exception a record-of-rights similar to that in vogue in the regulation provinces, based on shares supposed to have been acquired in the common course of inheritance. These shares were calculated in fractions of a rupee. The document thus drawn up was called the *phant*, and was made out in the various parganas between 1839 and 1854. It was never checked or attested and was generally glaringly incorrect or full of false entries. The system which the Government contemplated by the preparation of this document, namely, the maintenance of an undivided joint property, the collection of income into a common stock, with a periodical rendition of accounts and division of surplus receipts, was in most villages not understood and was never carried out. In some the headmen were strong enough to resist any curtailment of their privileges; and in others it was found easier to distribute the amount of Government revenue by a rate upon the area of each holding, and thus, though nominally possessing a fixed share in the whole estate, a man's actual stake in it came practically to be measured by the land he held in his occupation. Gradually, however, as the meaning of proprietary right dawned upon them, those whose names had been recorded in the *phant*, and also others who thought there might be a chance of an award in their favour, began to assert their claims and to bring their cases into court. There were others, too, who thought that they had claims to larger shares than those recorded

in the *phant*; while some whose names were entered in the documents had never been entitled to a share. To these were now added those who obtained from the courts decrees for shares in fractions of a rupee, which it was impossible to execute without disturbing existing possession in the land, with the result that disputes every where broke out between the *lumbardars*, the recorded share-holders and the decree-holders, the two latter demanding to be admitted to a settlement of accounts and the possession of land corresponding to their ancestral or decreed shares and the former refusing to recognize any right on their part except the right to pay the quota of the state demand on their holdings. The principles laid down by Government in G. O. no. 173, dated November 30th, 1853, which governed the action taken by settlement officers in disposing of proprietary titles in the Saugor and Nerbudda territories, were found wholly inapplicable and at length in 1862,* all questions connected with land were withdrawn from the civil courts and made triable by settlement officers only. So involved had matters become that, in 1864, all *khewats* and administration papers prepared previous to that year were condemned and the settlement officer was directed to draw up new ones, authoritatively determining who were proprietors and who were tenants. This work was carried through with much painstaking energy by Mr. E. G. Jenkinson, and the constitution of all estates in Jhansi proper was brought into conformity with the tenures now recognized and existing elsewhere in the province.

In Lalitpur.

In Lalitpur no such difficulties arose. In the parganas ceded by Gwalior the revenue-paying estates had all been held by farmers or lessees whose tenure depended solely on their ability to meet the Government demand, and they were never recognized as proprietors. At the introduction of British rule, therefore, the state was the sole acknowledged owner of the soil. In the confiscated parganas, Banpur and Madaora, the proprietorship of the state was even more clear, the farming system having only very partially been carried out. In the Narhat villages, however, the ownership of the Rajputs in possession was undoubted, and was formally recognized and conferred on them at once. In other parts proprietary right was, at the regular

* Government resolution no. 264, dated 7th February 1862.

settlement in 1868, conferred on the headmen of the village communities together with their co-sharers, the number and interests of the latter being specified in a record-of-rights. The village headmen were in most instances descendants of the original founders, called *jharia kath* or cutters of the bush, and under native governments they had generally been entrusted with the management of the village and collection of the revenue. The possession of mere farmers was only upheld when no stronger claims were brought forward. Whenever old cultivators were among the claimants and did not succeed in establishing their rights to engage for the village, they were recorded as sub-proprietors of their own holdings if they had held possession of these for over twelve years, together with a proportional share of the waste. But the total number so recorded was only 161, and their shares only amounted to 2,850 acres.

Proprietary castes.

Of the various castes, Rajputs hold far the largest area, amounting to 38·56 per cent. of the total area of the district. They are the old hereditary rulers of the country and abound in all tahsils: and their position is particularly strong in the subdivision, where they possess no less than 52·37 per cent. of the total area. In Jhansi proper they still predominate with 20·98 per cent., especially in Mau and Garautha. Rajputs are followed, at a long interval, by Brahmans with 19·52 per cent.; but, while Brahmans hold 17·92 per cent. in Lalitpur, they possess 21·20 per cent. in Jhansi proper and run Rajputs very close. Brahmans have always held a stronger position in Jhansi than in Lalitpur, and their numbers are increased by the inclusion of Marwari and Dakshini Brahmans, who date their acquisitions from Maratha times, or have obtained a footing by money-lending and foreclosure. The next most important caste is that of Ahirs. These own 9·14 per cent. of the entire district; but the proportion rises as high as 13·69 per cent. in Jhansi proper and falls to 5·03 per cent. in Lalitpur. They, with their related castes of Gujars and Ghosis, thrive along the ravine tracts in the northern part of the district, especially in Jhansi tahsil. Lodhis follow Ahirs with 8·13 per cent., including 8·74 per cent. in Lalitpur and 7·46 per cent. in Jhansi proper. In

the former tract they are most numerous in Talbehat, Bansi and Madaora parganas, and in the latter they are found chiefly in Jhansi and Moth tahsils to the west of the Betwa river. Banias own 5·98 per cent. and are scattered all over the district, their proportion being somewhat higher in Lalitpur than in Jhansi; while Kurmis, with 4·49 per cent., exist for the most part in the western parts of Jhansi proper, where they hold 7·85 per cent. of the total area; they are unimportant in the subdivision where they own but 1·44 per cent. The only other important proprietary caste is that of Kayasths, who own 2·63 of the entire district, equally distributed in both parts of it. Musalmans, as might be expected, are insignificant as landlords, possessing only 1·10 per cent. The remainder of the land, amounting to 10·45 per cent., is divided in small fractions between the Government, Khangars, Kalars, Kachhis and other miscellaneous castes. These figures may be compared with those of the previous settlements to show the extent to which changes have taken place in the proprietary body. Rajputs have steadily lost ground. They owned in Jhansi proper 29·3 per cent. in 1864 and 26·2 in 1892: in Lalitpur their possessions fell from 55·2 per cent. in 1868 to 54·07 per cent. in 1896. Brahmans rose meanwhile from 20·0 and 15·62 per cent. in the two portions of the district at the older settlements to 21·3 and 17·08 per cent. at those of 1892 and 1896. During the same periods Ahirs, Lodhis and Kurmis all lost steadily throughout the district, and Banias, Marwaris and Kayasths gained at their expense. Under the restrictions imposed by the Land Alienation Act of 1903 the relative position of the agricultural tribes may now be expected to remain practically unchanged.

***Ubari* tenure.**

Besides the ordinary forms of tenure already noted there exist the revenue free and *ubari*, the latter of which is of some importance in the district. The term *ubari* signifies properly "an abatement of the full demand of land revenue to which the state is entitled." But it has been applied also to "the mulct laid on the freebooter," the tribute payable to the lord paramount from some petty chief, and even to the moderate revenue fixed by order on resumed *muafi* estates. It is also loosely and improperly applied to the reduced demand actually paid by the *ubaridar* instead of to the amount remitted, and to the estate

itself on which such demand is levied. These tenures somewhat differ in the two parts of the district and have a different history. In Jhansi proper the *ubari* was a privilege granted by the Maratha chiefs to prominent men who managed their estates for them or was a kind of seigneurial due varying in severity according to the power of the suzerain chief to enforce it on semi-independent feudatories. In 1823 the British Government interfered to protect the *ubaridars* against the exactions of the Jhansi prince, and laid down definitely the quit-rent which each was to pay him. The privilege has always been a life one, and liable to resumption on the death of the individual or of the different members of a community upon whom it had been conferred. In many cases, after the British occupation, it had been allowed to involve other privileges, such as exemption from arrest and from summons from the civil courts, precedence in the district officers' darbars, non-rendition of village accounts and in some cases a monopoly of *abkari* or excise receipts within local limits. But, with the exception of Gursarai, all *ubari* estates now retain only the leniency of the revenue demand out of all their old privileges. At last settlement and during the earlier years of its course the rules* laid down by the Government for dealing with *ubari* estates were enforced with some severity, and a number of small properties were assessed to full revenue as their incumbents died. In 1882, on the representations of the *Ghar* Thakurs, a more liberal policy was instituted though the principle of personal as opposed to hereditary right was upheld. All the *ubari* privileges of quit-rent that had been confiscated between 1856 and 1880 were restored to the incumbents for the time being to be enjoyed during their lifetime, subject to their good behaviour, and on their decease the Government would decide in each case as to the continuance of the privilege to their heirs. The principle then laid down has since been followed by continuing the privilege to such representatives of the deceased *ubaridars* as have no means of livelihood beyond the shares held by them. Only in Kakarwai has it been decided that the *ubari* tenure is maintainable in perpetuity, but even in this case the Government has reserved the right of enhancing the demand on notice given. All the present *ubari* estates in Jhansi proper

* G. O., dated September 7th 1859.

are Rajput properties lying in the northern half of Garautha. The personal nature of the privilege makes it non-transferable as well as non-hereditable, and when any portion of an *ubari* estate is sold the full revenue is liable to instant imposition.

***Ubaris* in Lalitpur.** In Lalitpur *ubaris* are of two kinds—*Batota* and non-*Batota*. These must be clearly distinguished. *Batota ubaris* originated as follows. When Chanderi was captured for Sindhia by Colonel Jean Baptiste Filose in 1812 A.D., Mur Pahlad, the then reigning Bundela prince, fled and took protection with the Raja of Jhansi. Nothing took place for fifteen years, but in 1829 disturbances broke out, headed by Mur Pahlad. Colonel Filose returned to Chanderi to quell them, but through the intervention of the Raja of Orchha an arrangement was effected as a result of which two-thirds of the conquered territory fell to Sindhia and one-third was assigned to Mur Pahlad. This is known as the first Batota treaty, A.D. 1830. Mur Pahlad's share, estimated to provide revenue to the extent of Rs. 1,65,441, included a sum of Rs. 95,000 set apart for the maintenance of the other Bundela chiefs. Mur Pahlad did not conform to the arrangement for distributing land to the value of Rs. 95,000 among his kinsmen, and contrived to have their *jagir* villages included in Sindhia's share of the territory, which was tantamount to their resumption. The aggrieved Bundelas went in a body to complain at Gwalior, and an enquiry was made into the rights or *haq* of each petty chieftain. The award was embodied in the second or *haq*-Batota treaty of 1838. Under these treaties the lands in possession of each chief were confirmed to him according to the amount of his *haq*; but these were entered in terms of cash, without any specification of the area of the lands assigned, the details of the villages alone being given in which the *haq* lands were comprised. When the value of the lands already in possession of each chieftain did not exceed the amount of the *haq*, the tenure became rent-free or *jagir*; where the value was in excess of the *haq*, the difference became payable as quit-rent or *ubari*. Where the amount was less than the *haq*, or where persons entitled to share were found wholly out of possession, the difference was made good by awarding an equivalent in other villages. The latter lands were called *chir batota* or *haq thakuran*, were taken from the one-third share allotted to Mur Pahlad, and are scattered up and

down the subdivision. They are still kept up according to the terms of the treaty. When the Chanderi territory was transferred to the British in 1844, five *ubari* estates confirmed by the Batota treaties came under our rule. These were Salaiya, Kalro, Suri Kalan, Betna and Kathora. The other *ubari* estates of the Banpur raj passed to the British in 1859. It has been decided that *haq Batota* holdings and *Batota ubaris* should ordinarily not be resumed, and it is now the expressed desire of the Government that the *ubari* privilege should be retained as long as any respectable members of the *ubaridar's* family are in possession of the estate, whether they be in the direct line of descent or only collaterals. Alienation of the property, however, involves forfeiture unless the alienee is a sharer in the privilege in the same village and approved of by the collector.

Non-*Batota ubaris* are favoured tenures, chiefly granted by Colonel Sleeman, as rewards for special service, except where, as in the case of Narhat, a pre-existing *ubari* right was simply confirmed at the time of the original acquisition of the territory in 1810 A.D. They are personal and liable to resumption at the death of the incumbent or on alienation. All *ubaris* of either kind and *Batota* holdings are resumable on the misconduct of the grantee. Non-*batota ubaris.*

The rest of the cultivating body is divided into the two great classes of tenants-at-will and tenants with rights of occupancy. At the settlement of 1906 the former held 36·14 per cent. and the latter 30·35 per cent. of the total holdings area. In Jhansi proper the holdings of non-occupancy tenants have shown an infinitesimal change of ·02 per cent. since 1892, but the area held by occupancy-tenants has risen from 32·50 to 34·19 per cent. In Lalitpur more startling changes have taken place, the former class of holdings having decreased since 1896 from 58·63 to 48·95 per cent., and the latter having increased during the same period from 10·06 to 24·90 per cent. The only explanation given for the change is a revised system of classfication. Occupancy-rights are not resisted in Lalitpur or Jhansi, and it is probable that many tenants of long standing have now been formally recorded occupancy tenants. Among tahsils the land held by occupancy-tenants exceeds that held by tenants-at-will in Jhansi Tenants.

and Moth, but the reverse is the case in Garautha, while in Mau the area is almost equally divided. In the two tahsils of Lalitpur the proportions of land are similar, the balance as between the classes being nearly two to one in favour of tenants-at-will. But the division of land under the two recognized heads is much complicated by the peculiar tenures that prevail, and the records have been in the past much vitiated by the ignorance of the *patwaris* and the fact that occupancy-rights have been little valued.

History of tenant right.

To fully understand the position held by tenants in the district it is necessary to trace the history of their rights. The distinction between proprietors and tenants is not well-defined, and the people have adhered in a marked degree to old Maratha constitutions while conforming in name to the British. Only slowly have the latter taken root. Under the Marathas no distinction had been recognized between landlords and tenants: all were cultivators paying rent to the state. With the summary settlements was introduced a form of record of proprietary and tenant rights and the history of the latter is the counterpart of that of the former which has already been given. The men who were recorded as tenants at the settlement of 1866 were divided into the two classes of occupancy and non-occupancy tenants. The former class included two different kinds of tenants: there were firstly those men who were distinctly related to or were of the same caste as the new proprietors, but who had failed to secure recognition as proprietors; and there were secondly the men of inferior caste, Kachhis and others, who had been cultivators of long standing, but with regard to whom the question of proprietary right had never arisen. Both were recorded as "*maurusi*" cultivators, but *quâ* tenants were precisely on the same footing. As soon as the state ceased to collect rents as distinct from revenue the question was at once liable to arise as to what rents were to be collected by the proprietor, and the rents of occupancy tenants became a matter of importance. It appears that the first settlement officers, Mr. C. J. Daniell and Captain F. D. Gordon, had intended to fix rents for the period of settlement in every village; but in 1863 it was discovered that rent-rolls had been drawn up on the basis of Mr. Daniell's standard revenue rates. The practice of fixing rents was accordingly

prohibited and the rent-rolls were destroyed, the settlement officers being directed to record the rents they found to be in force by prescription. Accordingly the village rent-rates were recorded in the *wajib-ul-arz* or village administration papers; and, as proprietors and tenants had been before the introduction of British rule on the same footing as regards rent, it was generally remarked that these rates were applied to the areas of proprietors and occupancy tenants alike. Tenants-at-will were left to pay whatever was agreed upon between themselves and the proprietors. The rent-rates were the old traditional village rates which were in force in Maratha times, and the lump rents, which had doubtless been calculated originally by a rate and subsequently converted, were on a similar scale. The *wajib-ul-arz* also generally laid down that the rents fixed for occupancy tenants would continue for the period of settlement, and it was frequently added that enhancements would take place in accordance with the law for the time being in force. No distinction was usually made among occupancy tenants themselves, but sometimes it was mentioned that certain named tenants had paid certain rents in the past and would do so in the future. Besides paying a fixed rent for the term of settlement, the privileges of the favoured tenants consisted in the right of selling and mortgaging their rights; they also held *mahua* trees and a certain amount of uncultivated land for which they paid no rent beyond that assessed on the cultivated land. The system thus created was in the nature of a compromise between the new proprietors and the old tenants, and the special privileges were practically a continuation of those enjoyed by the whole body of cultivators under Maratha rule. It had been effected with the consent of parties; but the terms of the agreement were certainly meant to hold good only for the term of settlement, and were subject to the law for the time being in force. But that law did not recognise a tenant's right to hold land at a fixed rate in a temporarily settled district, and the sale of occupancy rights also was subsequently prohibited. As a result of these conditions the position of these tenants differed, soon after the record was framed, little if at all from that of ordinary occupancy tenants. No questions however with regard to their so-

called privileges arose during the currency of settlement, because enhancement cases were uncommon, and modifications and readjustments of rent to suit altered circumstances, such as land being rendered unculturable by *kans*, were carried out by the parties themselves. When the new record-of-rights was framed in 1892 these tenants were all recorded occupancy tenants, and questions of privilege were left to be decided in individual cases as they arose on the basis of the old *wajib-ul-arz*. As in the case of proprietary rights, Lalitpur escaped the difficulties of Jhansi proper in that of tenants' rights. Before the first settlement in 1868 the hereditary rights of cultivators had not been formally recognized, but at that period, with the exception of certain old cultivators who were recorded as sub-proprietors and have been already mentioned, an occupancy-title was granted to all who had held continuous possession of their holdings for a period of 12 years. An hereditary occupancy right had been recognised by the people themselves for many years prior to British rule: the same lands had descended from father to son uninterruptedly, and rents had been periodically fixed (usually after every second or third year) by a valuation or appraisement of the crop known locally as *dekhabhali*. In some cases the cultivators themselves appear to have declined to be recorded as occupancy tenants either to please the landlords or under the impression that they could make better terms for themselves as tenants-at-will. Thus in Lalitpur occupancy rights have developed along the same lines as in other districts in the province.

The system of charging rent.

Differing natural conditions have led to different rental customs in the red and black soil areas of the district, and in certain villages, the system of charging rents has distinctive features of its own. In the red soil tract the bulk of the cultivated area is held under the "*kuanbandi*" tenure. Under this form of tenure the nucleus of a holding is constituted by a portion of the *tareta* or irrigated land surrounding a well, and the remainder consists of a varying area of outlying land, called *dang* or *har*. The latter is changed as a rule every three years, because the red soil of this tract is too poor to admit of continuous cultivation for a longer period. The whole is held under a lease at a lump

rent known as *thansa* or *thanka patta*. If any change takes place in the quality or extent of the outlying land which replaces similar land in the triennial shifting in the *har*, the rent is roughly adjusted to suit the change by the process of *dekhabharki* or *dekhabhali*. The lump rent usually includes payment for the right of grazing in the waste, occasionally extending to the reservation of a definite area of grass land called *rund*, and to wood and jungle fruits. Cultivation outside these lump rented holdings is known as *ugar*. In Jhansi it may be rented either at a fixed area rate, or according to the quantity of seed sown, when it is called *bijguna*, or, in a small number of villages, according to the number of ploughs employed, when it is called *halguna*. In Lalitpur the rent on such land is almost always fixed at a crop rate per *bigha*, the system being known as *dharbandi*, on the basis of a series of crop rents recorded in the record-of-rights. But these rates are by no means always insisted on and are liable to modification at the time of collection by mutual agreement among the parties, according to the status of the cultivator or the crop obtained. The land is usually rent-free for the first year's crop of *til*, *kodon* or *kutki*. If a tenant constructs a well he is allowed to hold the land irrigated from it at dry rates for five or six years, a lump rent being paid at the end of this period. In the black soil areas the customs of Jhansi and Lalitpur differ to some extent. The bulk of the area is still included in lump-rented holdings. In Jhansi proper newly broken up land is called *nautor*, and pays only a nominal rent of two to four annas a *bigha* in the first year. In the second year this rent is approximately doubled, and a lump-rent is as a rule agreed on in the third year. The custom, however, varies from village to village according to the nature of the soil, the demand for land and the strength or weakness of the landlords In Lalitpur the nucleus of the holding is again formed by a small area in the immediate vicinity of the site or, when the *moti* is of sufficiently good quality to be continuously cultivable, by land at a distance. But as a rule only a few of the best fields in the holding remain fixed, and the tenant is allowed to change the inferior land as soon as the weakening of the crops shows that it requires to be left fallow. Land newly broken up is

known as *naugir* and is usually rent-free, the full rent at the very low rates that prevail being imposed in the second or occasionally postponed till a later year.

System of *dhara*. The only peculiar rental system that need here be mentioned is that of *dhara*. The acreage held under it recorded at the settlement of 1892 was 3,379 acres, all of which, except four acres in tahsil Garautha, was situated in tahsil Mau. It is the custom in some villages to distribute the Government demand by a rate or *dhara* on the land; this is paid by all alike, proprietors and tenants. The sum raised is the amount of revenue, cesses and village expenses. After the creation of proprietary rights this system naturally did not content the *zamindars*; they wanted their profits and obtained them by largely increasing the village expenses included in the sum to be distributed over the village community. The rate would from time to time be raised by a few annas till it often reached a very fair rent-rate. So long as the sum to be contributed did not exceed the revenue and cesses the tenants paid merely their quota of it, but the customary profits of the landholders have now generally become tacked on to the amount to be realized, and the *dhara* tenants, who seem to have originally held a position similar to the *bhejberar* tenant of eastern Bundelkhand, have now become little else but occupancy tenants with a shadowy privilege of pleading exemption to enhancement.

Status of tenants. The levelling effect of Maratha rule and the traditions of equality it generated still linger in the villages where the *dhara* system prevails, and in the many communities where the tenants resent and strenuously resist any enhancement of their rents. Normally, however, land is abundant and cultivators are scarce, and the position of the tenants is a strong one. Rack-renting, oppression or any curtailment of their privileges are prevented by fear of desertion of the village. Opposition is seldom made by the landlords to the acquisition of occupancy rights, but at the same time in the red-soil tracts custom permits of constant changes in the fields held under the same rent, and occupancy right is an object but little sought after, especially in Lalitpur. Historical causes have brought about considerable differences between the status of the tenants in the sub-

division and in Jhansi proper. In Lalitpur there has been no tradition of equality, Bundela influence has always predominated and, while rents are as a rule very low and the tenant is allowed free grazing and wood cutting with unusual liberty of transfer, his subordinate position is very forcibly brought to his notice should he infringe the *zamindari* prerogatives. The strong Bundela families, such as that of Jakhlon, are not only able to fix comparatively high rents but also to collect them fairly fully even in bad years without causing the tenant to desert his village. Their power is partly due to hereditary feudal relations between the parties, but also to the large area of jungle under their control, in which the tenant gets rights of wood and grass, aided by the protection which their name affords from the occasional visits of dacoits and the more constant exactions of petty officials. Throughout the district no distinction is made in fixing rents on account of caste, though relatives of the proprietor may here and there be found paying a favoured rent. The one most obvious feature in the rental system of the district is that land lets at lump rents which are fixed by agreement and are based roughly on the capabilities of the holdings, together with the value of attendant perquisites, be the tenant Brahman, Kurmi or Chamar.

Rental incidences.

Rental incidences are vitiated by two factors of great importance in the agricultural system of the district. The first is the area of fluctuating cultivation which may be large or small, paying for the most part a nominal rent, and the second is cultivation by *pahi* or non-resident tenants. The latter is particularly prevalent in Lalitpur, and is an unexpected feature in a country where most villages have plenty of land to spare. The advantages which induce the resident of one village to cultivate in another appear to be that the landlord can bring no pressure on him to pay his rent in advance or at inconvenient seasons, or to pay it at all when crops are destroyed by calamity. *Pahi* cultivators usually pay lower rates than residents, and such cultivation on a large scale generally reduces the assets of a village, as well as rendering them extremely uncertain. The all-round incidence on tenant's land at the settlement of 1906 was Re. 1·82 per acre. Occupancy tenants holding 26·5 per cent.

of the cultivated area paid Rs. 2·47, and tenants-at-will with 40·2 per cent. paid only Re. 1·40. The relation between the rates paid by each class varied to a considerable extent in different tahsils. While the advantage in favour of the non-occupancy tenants was 43 per cent. over the district it was only 8 per cent. in Garautha, 14 per cent. in Moth and rose to 55 per cent. in Lalitpur tahsil. In the year of settlement the low rents of non-occupancy tenants was in part due to the fact that their holdings contained the bulk of the *nautor* area in the black soil tracts, but apart from this circumstance it is the fact that occupancy rents rule higher throughout the district than those of tenants-at-will. The influence of *pahi* cultivation in depressing the rental of tenants-at-will has already been alluded to; but also the rents of occupancy tenants are heightened by the fact that in the red soil tracts they hold the bulk of the irrigated area and by the practice, which is common especially in Lalitpur, of adding a few varying fields to an occupancy-holding at a fixed lump rent. Over the whole district the occupancy tenant is also better off than the tenant-at-will, and he holds better land; so that his rent would be expected to be somewhat higher and the factors that influence it are particularly noticeable in the red soil tracts of Jhansi, Mau, Bansi and Talbehat.

Fluctuation of rent.

The comparison of rentals at different periods is vitiated by the changes in rental incidence due to the varying area of land held at nominal rents and the only method of gauging the rise and fall of rentals is by a reference to standard local rates. So far as can be judged from the incidences at the settlements of 1892 and 1896, non-occupancy rents have remained steady in Jhansi and Moth, while in Mau they have fallen during the last ten years 26 per cent. and in Garautha 33 per cent. In Banpur pargana they appear to be steady, but in the other Lalitpur parganas they have fallen from 11 to 16 per cent. during the same period. Occupancy rents have risen in Jhansi and Moth, fallen in Mau and Garautha, but remained practically unchanged in Lalitpur. As regards the comparison of standard rates the matter is further complicated by the fluctuations in value of the Gajashahi rupee. In Mau and Garautha, where that coin is current to a greater extent than elsewhere, the circle rates are lower owing

to a fall in exchange than they were in 1892, but in other tahsils of Jhansi and in Lalitpur they have remained very much the same as they were at that time.

Fallow rents.

Closely connected with the question of rents is that of fallows. The holdings include large areas of fallow, amounting at settlement to 27·29 and 34·82 per cent. of the occupancy, and to 12·27 and 9·40 per cent. of the non-occupancy and other areas in Jhansi and Lalitpur, respectively. The large fluctuations in rental collections in Bundelkhand are often intimately associated with a system of fallow allowance. Ordinarily the rent of a holding in Jhansi includes nothing for the fallow, the fallow being regarded merely as an easement attached to the holding over which the tenant has a right to graze his cattle. But the fallow may be worth something as grazing land, and it may have been let for cultivation, though, when uncultivated, it may not be charged to rent. More generally, when a period of depression comes round and the area of fallow is abnormal, some allowance is made at the time of collection, the amount depending on the circumstances of the landlord and tenant and the relationship between them. These circumstances make a difference between the nominal and realizable rent, and are largely responsible for the masses of arrears that often disfigure the rental collections. They have been taken into account at the recent settlement, the value of some of the fallow area being assessed as *sayar* income and other portions having been disregarded, while in necessary cases, a lump deduction has been made from the rental roughly proportionate to the fallow area.

Character and condition of the people.

The peasantry of Jhansi, as that of the rest of Bundelkhand, is commonly charged with being thriftless and apathetic. A similarly severe indictment can often be brought against the landlords of the district. The predominating Rajput landholder frequently proves himself a bad manager, a fact which finds apt expression in the Lodhi saying: "What can the son of a Diwan know about his village." The Bundela with long traditions of a departed greatness is letting his standard of subsistence sink lower and lower, while he struggles to maintain the pomp and show of former days. Haughty and reserved, he demands an unqualified deference from all whom he regards as his inferiors, and claims to be addressed by honorific titles to

denote his rank: his love for these is well known. The natural increase of families has resulted in a constant subdivision of the ancestral lands—never very rich at their best—and a sternly repressive Government has destroyed the opportunities that once existed for eking out the family income by raids and forays. The turbulent and refractory character of the Rajput inhabitants long found vent in dacoity and armed robbery, which gave the district, especially the Lalitpur subdivision, an unenviable notoriety for crimes of violence. Though much improvement has taken place this form of crime is still prevalent, and it may with truth be said that every village is full of potential dacoits. On the other hand with all their failings, which are largely the outcome of historic conditions, they have a strict code of honour and etiquette which makes them pleasant people to deal with, and they are regarded as the natural lords of the soil and the best landlords by the people themselves. Before the Mutiny it was not an uncommon occurrence to hear that some well-known Bundela landowner was engaged in *bhumiawat*. This literally meant a war or fight for landed inheritance, derived from the Sanskrit *bhum* or earth, and when a Bundela undertook it he collected his followers and engaged in a course of indiscriminate murder and plunder until he could make peace on his own terms. The bulk of the ordinary inhabitants are ignorant and superstitious, wedded to ancient customs and incapable of prolonged effort or sustained labour. But both historic and natural conditions have been against the people. Incessant war and indiscriminate plunder as Mughal, Maratha or Bundela hordes swept over the country destroyed all feeling of security and prudence, while thrift and enterprise are hardly to be looked for where agriculture is so entirely at the mercy of the seasons, where good harvests can be so often reaped with a minimum of exertion, and where no foresight or industry can stave off the disastrous effects of unfavourable rainfall. Indolence, so patent from the difficulty of obtaining labour at any time, apathy so manifest in the face of calamity, and helplessness so much in evidence in times of stress are undeniable characteristics of the people. An enquiry conducted in 1888 into the economic condition of the people by the local authorities resulted in the conclusion that a very small proportion

of the population were underfed, a man even in the poorest circumstances thinking it a hardship to have less than three meals a day. A larger quantity of their food, however, than is common in the Doab consists of the inferior millets and *kharif* grains, and among the poorest during the hot weather *mahua* is largely mixed with food. The clothing is rough and coarse but, except among jungle tribes and the lowest strata of the population, is sufficient. Cattle are numerous, and milk is freely used as an article of diet. A newcomer is often struck by the substantial appearance of the villages with their red tiled roofs. Stone is plentiful and generally there is no lack of wood, so that the homestead is usually warm and comfortable. The better class of tenant has, as has been seen, considerable advantages over his brethren in the Doab; he is not troubled by lack of land or difficulties in connection with tenant right, and rents are not as a rule very stringently collected, especially if there has been any crop failure. But normally, the agricultural classes are in want of money, and in so fluctuating a country their prospects are always uncertain. Debt, however, has not many terrors for them, and a position of dependence on the village banker is customary and not uncongenial. The indebtedness of the landed classes is a more serious matter, and its extent and nature have recently been brought to light as well as remedied by the operations of the Encumbered Estates Act of 1903. Claims amounting to Rs. 21,82,995 were made against them, Rs. 18,00,234 of which were reckoned to hold good in a civil court. If it be assumed that those who were thus indebted amounted to four-fifths of the whole body of proprietors, they owed a sum equivalent to three and a half years' revenue. The encumbrances of the proprietors of the Lalitpur subdivision were comparatively small; but their revenue is also low, and the proportion of the latter to the former is about the same as in Jhansi proper. The period, however, during which these debts were incurred was marked by great agricultural misfortunes, and the restrictions on the alienation of land now in force, combined with the liberal policy of remissions and generous distributions of *takavi*, should prevent the incurment of such wholesale liabilities in the future and maintain the proprietors and tenants of the district in as comfortable a position as can be expected in so uncertain a tract of country.

CHAPTER IV.

ADMINISTRATION AND REVENUE.

District staff.

THE district is now controlled by a magistrate and collector assisted by a staff usually composed of two members of the Indian Civil Service, one of whom is stationed at Lalitpur, three full-powered deputy collectors and one deputy or assistant magistrate with less than full powers. There are also a cantonment magistrate with the powers of a small cause court judge, six tahsildars, and a bench of honorary magistrates with second class powers having jurisdiction within the municipality of Jhansi. Besides these, the judicial courts consist of those of the district and sessions judge, the subordinate judge of Jhansi, and the munsifs of Jhansi and Lalitpur. The remaining civil officials include the civil surgeon and his assistants, the district engineer, the chaplain, the district superintendent of police and his assistants, one of whom with the rank of assistant superintendent is always stationed at Lalitpur, the deputy inspector of schools and the postmaster. Other officials whose duties are less local have their headquarters at Jhansi. Such are the executive engineer, Jhansi division, the superintending engineer, IVth circle, irrigation works, with the executive engineers of the Betwa, Dhasan and Tanks divisions; and the superintendent of post offices, Bundelkhand division, and of F. division of the railway mail service. Besides these there are the officials of the Great Indian Peninsula railway in charge of the railway workshops and sections of the branch and main lines.

Garrison.

In recent years the garrison of Jhansi has been much increased. Jhansi is now the headquarters of a brigade forming part of the 5th Mhow division. The force within cantonments comprises one battalion of British and three of native infantry, with one regiment of native cavalry. In addition two batteries of artillery, usually of the howitzer class, with an ammunition column and two half troops of army transport bullocks are sta-

tioned here. Jhansi is also the headquarters of the 2nd G. I. P. railway Volunteers, and supports a detachment of the Cawnpore Volunteer Rifles.

Formation of the district.

The bulk of the present district of Jhansi proper, then comprised in the Jhansi state, first came under British control in 1839, owing to the inability of Raja Gangadhar Rao to manage the tract in possession of which the British had secured his ancestor nearly forty years before. This direct administration lasted till 1842, the military officers who carried it on making summary settlements with the people. During this period the *taluqa* of Chirgaon, comprising 26 villages, which formed one of the Hashtbhaiya *jagirs* was confiscated for the rebellion of its chief, Bakht Singh, and added to the newly formed district of Jalaun. At the close of 1842 a treaty was concluded with Raja Gangadhar Rao by virtue of which his estates were restored to him, with the exception of certain lands estimated to yield an annual revenue of Rs. 2,27,458. This sum was to be set aside for the maintenance of a force called the Bundelkhand Legion, which was to be stationed in cantonments situated on land supplied by the Raja within the boundaries of his state and to be held in readiness for his defence. This force had originally been raised for the protection of the Jalaun district and had been known as the Jalaun force; but the assumption of the direct management of the Raja's dominions had necessitated its strengthening, and on this ground some of the burden of its maintenance was thrown on the Raja's shoulders. It was subsequently disbanded in 1848. The territory thus ceded by Gangadhar Rao included most if not all of the present tahsils of Moth and Garautha, and was put in 1843 under the control of the superintendent of Jalaun. By the treaty of January 13th 1844, the Maharaja Sindhia assigned to the British Government, for the upkeep of the Gwalior Contingent, a large extent of territory. This assignment included the parganas or *taluqas* of Bhander, Garhmau and Chanderi, now wholly or partially within this district, along with others beyond its present borders. These tracts were taken under direct management by military officers, who were subordinate to the Agent to the Governor-General in Bundelkhand, as well as to the Commander-in-Chief, and they made summary settlements with the land-

holders. Chanderi was administered by a deputy superintendent, who appears to have had also some powers over the estates of the Raja of Banpur. In 1853 Gangadhar Rao died childless, and his estates were held to have lapsed to the British. They then comprised 696 villages scattered over the parganas of Jhansi, Pachor, Karahra, Mau, Bijaigarh and Pandwaha.

The Jhansi superintendency. In the following year the Jhansi superintendency was formed; it included the districts of Jalaun, Chanderi and Jhansi. The last-named was constituted out of the lapsed parganas together with Moth (including the *taluqa* of Chirgaon), and Garautha, making a total of 1,220 villages. The three districts were administered separately by deputy superintendents in subordination to the superintendent, who had the powers of a commissioner; and the whole was attached in the same year to the Saugor and Nerbudda territories, which were at that time under the Government of the North-Western Provinces. The superintendent had final jurisdiction in summary suits, but in regular suits an appeal lay to the commissioner of the Saugor division, and from him to the Board of Revenue. On the civil side he had the powers of a judge in subordination to the Government, and on the criminal side to that of the Sadr Nizamat Adalat at Agra. The deputy superintendents of Jalaun and Jhansi had the powers of a collector under the control of the superintendent, while that of Chanderi had the powers of a principal sadr amin, and appeals from his decision lay to the superintendent.

Changes after the Mutiny. On the restoration of order after the disturbances connected with the Mutiny during 1857-58, six villages, comprising Mohanpura and the Toreah *muafi taluqa* in pargana Mau, were handed over to the Orchha state; the Raja of Banpur's estates were confiscated for rebellion and added to Chanderi; and those of the Raja of Shahgarh, who had also committed himself during the rebellion, were sequestrated, pargana Madaora being incorporated in the newly formed district of Lalitpur in 1860. At the same time 36 villages of pargana Narhat, which formed part of the Saugor district and had been under British rule since 1819, were attached to Lalitpur. That same year saw the conclusion of a treaty with Sindhia, dated 12th December 1860,* by which an exchange

* Aitchison's Treaties III p. 314.

of territory took place in readjustment of accounts connected with the expenses of the Gwalior Contingent. Under the terms of this agreement 68 villages of pargana Bhander and 80 villages of Chanderi, the latter comprising the pargana of that name, together with 153 other villages not included in the district but which had been ceded to the British under the treaty of 1844, were restored to Gwalior, while 80 villages of the former pargana, 380 in Chanderi and 160 other villages were permanently handed over to the British with full sovereign rights. In addition to the above, Sindhia received the whole of parganas Pachor and Karahra and 61 villages in Jhansi.

Formation of the Jhansi division.

In 1858 the three districts of Jhansi, Jalaun and Chanderi were detached from the Saugor and Nerbudda territories, and were formed, with the outlying district of Hamirpur (removed however in 1863), into a division under a separate commissioner. The title of the district officers was at the same time changed from deputy superintendents to deputy commissioners, and the local rules which had governed procedure up to the Mutiny were superseded by regulations formally introduced or spontaneously applied. In 1862 the cadre of the Jhansi commission together with the scale of the subordinate establishments was prescribed. The separate judicial agency known as the pargana courts under a principal sadr amin at Jhansi was abolished by a resolution which blended all kinds of fiscal and judicial functions in the same person from the commissioner to the tahsildar. A revised set of civil and revenue rules was promulgated at the same time, and these were subsequently legalized by the Non-Regulation Districts Act (XXIV of 1864) which also extended to Jhansi the Code of Civil Procedure. By the Jhansi Courts Act (XVIII of 1867) the jurisdiction of the courts of civil judicature was defined. The Code of Criminal Procedure which came into force in the regular provinces in 1862 was applied also to Jhansi, and from that year, with the exception of revenue and rent suits, which were conducted in accordance with the old regulations, the administration of Jhansi was governed by the laws in force in the North-Western Provinces generally. Any doubts or misapprehensions as to what enactments were in force in the Jhansi division were set at rest by the Scheduled Districts and Laws Local Extent Acts (XIV and

XV of 1874). The division, moreover, was not excluded from the provisions of the Revenue and Rent Acts of 1873 and 1881. Meanwhile in 1871, by treaty dated December 2nd of that year, 15 more villages from pargana Bhander and 5 villages from pargana Moth, with a revenue of Rs. 21,623 and Rs. 5,860 respectively, were restored to Gwalior to extinguish an annual payment of Rs. 4,658 remaining due to that state under the treaty of 1860.* Further changes were made in 1886. In that year the British Government agreed to vacate the fort of Gwalior which had remained in its possession since 1861. In exchange for 27 villages in Jhansi and 4½ in Moth, which had previously belonged to pargana Bhander, 58 villages in the north-west and west of Jhansi tahsil, including the city and fort of Jhansi, which since 1861 had been manned by Sindhia's troops, were handed over to the British Government and incorporated in the district.

Abolition of the Jhansi division.

In 1888 two important questions connected with the administration of the Jhansi division came under the consideration of the Government. The first was the separation of the judicial and executive functions at that time exercised by the officers of the Jhansi commission: the second was the reorganization of the districts subordinate to the commissioner and the extension of his jurisdiction. In 1889 a commission was appointed to examine and report on these matters, together with certain other proposed administrative changes in other parts of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. The proposals of the committee† were, briefly, to abolish the commissionership, to relieve the deputy commissioners of all civil work, to create the appointments of a judge, one subordinate judge and two munsifs, and to abolish the district of Lalitpur as a separate district, making it a subdivision of the district of Jhansi. Finally it was proposed that the three districts now reduced to two should be incorporated in the division of Allahabad. The administrative changes here adumbrated were made effective by Act XX of 1890 (North-Western Provinces and Oudh). Under the provisions of that Act the Jhansi division ceased to be a scheduled district, and all the enactments in force in the Allahabad division were extended to Jhansi, Jalaun and Lalitpur. Reorganization took effect from

* Aitchison's Treaties III, 321.
† Government resolution no. $\frac{1259}{I-549A}$, July 26th, 1890.

April 1st 1891, when the revenue officers were relieved of their civil functions by the appointment of a judicial staff, and the deputy commissioners—now renamed collectors—were deprived of the extended criminal powers conferred by section 30 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Owing, however, to the disturbed state of Lalitpur at the time, it was not converted into a subdivision in charge of a joint magistrate and annexed to the Jhansi district until the 1st of December 1891, on which date full effect was given to the new arrangements and the enlarged district of Jhansi became one of the regulation districts of the North-Western Provinces.

Sub-divisional changes. On its first formation in 1854, the district of Jhansi proper consisted of nine parganas, namely Jhansi, Pachor, Karahra, Mau, Pandwaha and Bijaigarh from the lapsed Jhansi state; and parganas Moth, including the *taluqa* of Chirgaon, Bhander and Garautha, including the 61 villages of the Gursarai *ubari* estate, were transferred from Jalaun. In 1856 the villages composing pargana Bijaigarh were divided between Pandwaha and Garautha, and in 1861 Pachor and Karahra were transferred to Sindhia. Six parganas, consisting of Jhansi, Bhander, Moth, Garautha, Pandwaha and Mau were left, and were divided into five tahsils, pargana Bhander being incorporated in that of Jhansi. In 1866 Pandwaha tahsil was abolished and its component villages were distributed over Mau and Garautha. The four tahsils thus constituted have remained unchanged to the present day. In Lalitpur the parganas, as distinct from tahsils, have survived and are still recognized as fiscal subdivisions. When the first part of Lalitpur came directly under British administration tahsils were established at Banpur and Madaora. Subsequent to the treaty of 1861 the Chanderi part of the district was formed into a tahsil, the headquarters of which were at Lalitpur. In 1866 the tahsils at Banpur and Madaora were abolished, a new tahsil being located at Mahroni and the villages redistributed between the two tahsils. Lalitpur tahsil comprised parganas Talbehat, Bansi, Lalitpur and Balabehat consisting of 303 of the old assigned villages of Chanderi together with 111 confiscated from Banpur; and tahsil Mahroni comprised parganas Banpur, Mahroni and Madaora, consisting of 87 assigned, 82 Banpur, 126 Shahgarh and 36 Narhat

villages. This arrangement has remained practically unaltered since.

Fiscal history.

Owing to the numerous changes and transfers of territory it is extremely difficult to follow the details of fiscal history. The matter is further complicated by the destruction of records during the disturbances connected with the revolt at Jhansi in 1857, and by the fact that the figures given in the various reports do not always correspond. For the full and better understanding of the question it will be convenient to divide the district into three portions, the parganas which were transferred from the Jalaun district in 1854; those which lapsed with the Jhansi state in the previous year; and the Lalitpur subdivision.

First regular settlement of Moth, Garautha and Bhandor.

The first of these comprised the parganas of Moth, Garautha and Bhander. In them boundaries had been marked off as early as 1839-40, when they were first taken under direct administration: summary settlements for three quinquennial periods, of which no records survive, were made in 1841-45, 1846-50 and 1851-56. By 1853 all of them with the exception of 26 villages belonging to the Chirgaon *taluqa* were surveyed. The last summary settlement in them was made by Major Erskine, superintendent of Jalaun, and amounted to Rs. 4,39,418 on 375 villages. On their transfer to Jhansi in 1854 Captain F. D. Gordon, the superintendent of that district, was entrusted with the charge of settlement: in that year the preparation of records and data for assessment was commenced. By June 1857 the assessments were completed and amounted to Rs. 3,17,201 for the same number of villages, being a reduction of nearly 28 per cent. on Major Erskine's summary demand.

Summary settlement of the lapsed parganas.

The regular survey was commenced in the lapsed parganas in 1854, but pending the preparation of records and papers Captain Gordon proposed to settle them summarily. This proposal was the subject of considerable discussion and difference of opinion. The local Government thought that the measures necessary for a summary settlement would impede the progress of a regular settlement, and proposed to allow the existing demand to continue by regular prolongation until the introduction of a regular settlement. The local officers pointed out that the revenue which had been fixed by the Raja pressed heavily on the people,

and that considerable balances accrued yearly which it was impossible to recover. Ultimately Government sanctioned a settlement commencing from July 1st, 1856, which should last for three years or for such longer time as might be necessary to complete the regular settlement. Captain Gordon completed the task of settlement in these before the outbreak of the Mutiny, and assessed parganas Mau, Pandwaha and Jhansi to a demand of Rs. 2,47,890 on 306 villages.

Regular settlement of the lapsed parganas.

When the Mutiny broke out the Government had already sanctioned the assessments of parganas Bhander and Garautha for a period of 20 years; but those of Moth were never actually sanctioned owing to the destruction of all records in the disturbances which then took place. The work of settlement was recommenced after the restoration of order in 1858 under Captain Maclean. Records were as far as possible recovered from *patwaris* and survey was begun again in those parganas where the the records had been lost, as well as in parganas Mau and Pandwaha. The work of settlement was carried on by Major Clerk, who assessed some *ubari* and *muafi* villages in Garautha, succeeding Captain Maclean in 1859. In 1861 Mr. C. J. Daniell, who followed Major Clerk, assessed pargana Pandwaha at Rs. 73,472 for 79 villages. In the following year he completed the settlement of pargana Mau, and fixed the demand at Rs. 83,913 on 117 villages. In 1863 Major Davidson took charge of the work and, by March 1864, finished the assessments of 119 villages in pargana Jhansi, imposing a demand of Rs. 47,157. The total demand therefore assessed on the three originally summarily settled parganas amounted to Rs. 2,02,746, a reduction on the previous demand of 18 per cent.

Concluding operations.

The work of winding up the settlement was done by Mr. (later Sir) E. G. Jenkinson, who succeeded Major Davidson in April 1864. But it was found that this work was considerably greater than had been anticipated. The records of the different parganas had been prepared at different times by different officers. They were in various stages of progress, and had been compiled unmethodically and on no uniform plan. In Garautha, Moth and Bhander many years had elapsed since the survey and preparation of the *khasras*. A greater objection still was that the records were incomplete and incorrect, especially in the case of the rent-rolls.

The first step taken by Mr. Jenkinson was to prepare accurate copies of this document for the year 1270 *fasli* (1862-1863) Another question arose as to what should be the official standard of measurement. In parganas Moth, Garautha and Bhander the *erachhi bigha* had been employed; but in 1862 Mr. Daniell remeasured 88 villages in Moth in acres, and in Mau, Jhansi and Pandwaha the same standard had been used. The Board of Revenue decided that the *erachhi bigha* should be the official standard. A conversion table was supplied, and the settlement officer was ordered to convert all acres, where these were entered in the papers, into *erachhi bighas*. As matters were more closely examined the inaccuracies and incompleteness of the records became more glaring, and in the end the work that had to be carried out by Mr. Jenkinson was in his own words "nothing less than a *pertal* of the whole district; the reconstruction of all the *khasras* and *khataunis*; the preparation of all the *khewats* and administration papers; and the assessment of several *muafi* and resumed *muafi* villages in different parts of the district * * * * and many other miscellaneous matters." This work was successfully carried through by the beginning of 1867. The demand as it then stood on the district as then constituted after all resumptions, etc., had been effected, amounted to Rs. 4,81,574, including the *ubari* jama of Rs. 22,500 on the Gursarai estate.

Methods of assessment. Owing to the destruction of all Captain Gordon's reports, it is now impossible to say with certainty in what manner that officer worked out his calculations and formed his assumptions as to average assets. So far as can be discovered he appears to have employed produce rates, at which he arrived by calculating the average produce, cost of cultivation and the profit on each class of soil. These rates he compared with actual revenue rates paid in adjoining districts in Bundelkhand; he formed circles of similar villages, and from the average rates so obtained he struck separate sets of rent rates in each village. But this is doubtless an incomplete account of his methods. In parganas Pandwaha and Mau Mr. Daniell pursued different systems. In the former he first ascertained the nominal rates paid in the village, for each class of soil; these rates were *bigha* rates, and were generally known and accepted in each village. On this basis he

fixed soil rates in every village, taking all circumstances of soil, position and the like into consideration. Soils were arbitrarily classified by him into four classes, according to the approximation of their rent to an average arithmetical standard, and an assumed rental was made out by multiplying the acreage of each soil into the average rate of its class. But this process seems to have been little if at all used for fixing the revenue. In Mau Mr. Daniell grouped the villages into four classes according to the general goodness of their lands: having done this he totalled up the deduced rent rates of each village, and so obtained the average rates of its class. In Jhansi Major Davidson first divided the villages into two classes, those with much good land, *mar* and *kabar*, which lie mostly in the north, and those having much *rakar*, which lie mainly in the south of the pargana. These classes he further subdivided into two, according to their population and other advantages. In the villages where *bigha* rates prevailed he ascertained the current rates, and worked out from them the average rate of the class for each soil. In the *kuanbandi* villages he fixed rates somewhat below those of the villages, where *bigha* rates were required, the rents paid being actually lighter on account of the poor, dry, uncertain soil. The chief difficulty of assessment in these villages lay in the assessment of the better lands, but rates were fixed on the basis of those prevailing in similar villages where there were known *bigha* rates and were compared with those actually realised under the peculiar local systems of rental prevailing. The fallow land in the poor outlying tracts was for the most part left altogether out of consideration.

Character and working of the settlement.

It would be idle to expect a settlement conducted under such diverse conditions, and by different officers at different times, to have had the stamp of uniformity. But Mr. Jenkinson, who had unusual opportunities for becoming acquainted with the villages in his charge, wrote in 1871: "I can safely say that the district has been very fairly assessed...In Mau and Pandwaha the assessments are very unequal ... but there is no such inequality as would call for a revision of the settlement." The worst feature in the condition of the tract was the indebtedness of the propietors, which Mr. Jenkinson pointed out would be a source of danger

to the settlement. But this the settlement officer could not mitigate except within narrow limits. The other evil which beset the district, the extreme sensitiveness to vicissitudes of season and outbreaks of *kans,* could only be anticipated by him in a small degree. All subsequent inquiries confirmed generally Mr. Jenkinson's verdict of the fairness of the settlement.

Subsequent history.

The settlement was confirmed for a period of twenty years dating from the date of the pargana last assessed—that is up to June 30th, 1884. Hardly had it started its course when the district was devastated by famine. Though greatly reduced and impoverished the people made a manful struggle against their misfortunes. The evil effects of this calamity, known locally as the "*pachisa,*" from the *sambat* year 1925, lay in a large loss of plough cattle and the migration of cultivators to Malwa and other parts. It was followed by seasons of excessive rain, and in the large areas of fallow *kans* sprang up and defied the enfeebled population till, in 1872, it was reported as covering 40,000 acres in Jhansi alone. The deputy commissioners found it necessary to report *mahal* after *mahal* as precluded by *kans* from paying its proper revenue. Remissions and reductions, authorized and unauthorized, followed each other with bewildering rapidity. In 1876 a systematic inquiry was conducted into of the bearing *kans* on the revenue by Mr. J. S. Porter, and again in 1877 by Mr. J. J. D. La Touche. But by that time *kans* had begun to decline, and in 1884-85 Mr. Broun was able to report that the wood had all but disappeared. In that and the following year the settlement *jamas* were reimposed in all but a few villages. The disturbances of the period are traceable partly in the extent of unauthorized arrears amounting to Rs. 68,498 which had to be remitted by special Government orders in 1879 and 1881, and partly in the reduction of the gross demand from Rs. 4,73,606 in 1872 to Rs. 4,36,962 in 1885. Early in the latter year the postponement of the revision was sanctioned on the ground that the improvement anticipated in the district, when the term of 20 years had been fixed in 1872, had not taken place; and owing to difficulties in the survey department, the 30th June 1892 was finally decided on as the date of the termination of the current settlement. The reimposed demand was for the

remainder of that period collected without great difficulty, but during the whole currency of settlement from 1864-65 until 1891-92 *kans* and other causes inseparably associated with it were calculated to have cost six *lakhs* of rupees in short collections on the settlement demand, and the striking off of Rs. 5,960 from the revenue roll.

Summary settlements in Lalitpur.

The earliest settlements in Lalitpur were all summary and carried out between 1844 and 1860. The first parganas assessed were Lalitpur, Talbehat, Bansi, Balabehat and Mahroni. In 1844 a triennial settlement was made by Captain Blake at a total demand of Rs. 97,758. This lasted till 1848, when a second settlement was made by Captain Harris; the latter continued in force until 1853, the demand being raised to Rs. 1,07,068. The third summary assessment, completed by Captain Gordon in 1854, reduced this *jama* to Rs. 96,949. Meanwhile the cadastral survey with a view to regular settlement was begun in 1853, but it was brought to a stop by the Mutiny. It was recommenced anew in 1859, Captain Tyler beginning work in that year. He was however almost immediately succeeded by Captain Corbett in 1860, who summarily assessed the confiscated parganas Madaora and Banpur and revised the existing *jama* in a few impoverished estates. The bases of all these settlements were the recorded rentals, which from being taken in cash were more trustworthy than they might otherwise have been. They could not however in all cases be accepted, and the knowledge of this fact caused Captain Corbett to err rather on the side of over-assessment by taking in many instances more than two-thirds of the assets as the Government demand. The summary demands of Messrs. Blake and Harris were without doubt too high: some villages fell into the hands of capitalists, others into those of farmers. The actual revenue as it stood in 1860 was Rs. 1,67,193, including the demand on *ubari* and resumed *muafi* estates.

First regular settlement of Lalitpur.

The regular survey was completed in 1862. Captain Corbett completed the assessments of Bansi, but was transferred to Jalaun the following year. Captain Tyler resumed work on return from furlough in succession to Captain Corbett and assessed pargana Talbehat and the whole of pargana Lalitpur, with the exception of 33 villages. He died in 1865, and Mr.

Montagu carried on work for a few months till the appointment of Colonel James Davidson, who completed settlement operations in the remaining parganas by 1869. Colonel Davidson found that his predecessors had inquired into and fixed average rates for all the parganas except Banpur and Madaora. The inquiry into prevailing rates was not a difficult one, as the average amount of each kind of soil was well known in the villages which had been long under direct management, and reliable information was readily forthcoming. The customary soils known as *moti, dumat* and *pathri* were retained as the basis of assessment; but they were not subdivided, as there was not sufficient difference in the rent rates to call for a more minute subdivision. Average soil rates were deduced by calculating the value of the produce per acre, deducting the expenses of cultivation and assuming half the resultant as rent. A classification of villages was made with special reference to the nature of the soil, population and other matters: but it did not as a rule follow geographical distribution. Each class of village in each pargana had a different rate for each class of soil. In the calculation of assets by this method the rental at assumed rates exceeded the recorded rental, including proprietary cultivation, by Rs. 37,304, a discrepancy which was explained by the existence of a large number of favoured rents. The total demand proposed, including the *jamas* on *ubari* and resumed *muafi* estates, was Rs. 1,47,802, to which must be added Rs. 27,538 for nominal revenue. The assessments were confirmed for a period of twenty years, all of them to fall in for the sake of uniformity on June 30th 1888. A shorter period than the normal thirty years was chosen because it was hoped that in that period the country would have recovered from the effects of the famine of 1868-69, and that there would be a large increase in cultivation and irrigation.

Proprietary indebtedness.

The measures taken for the relief of those estates which had been adversely affected by the seasons have already been mentioned, but proprietary indebtedness, the extent of which had been mentioned by Mr. Jenkinson in 1872 as likely to wreck the settlement in Jhansi proper, became much aggravated during the

currency of the assessments. With the introduction of British management in 1839 the theory of proprietary rights in land, which had not been recognised under the native governments, followed, and the *zamindari* system was definitely acknowledged at the regular settlement. As to its natural corollary, sale, "there are many considerations," it was said, "which render it expedient to remove every restriction upon the free transfer of land, which thus becomes available security for procuring capital by which the resources of the country can be developed and the industry of the people stimulated." But the gift of proprietary right followed by the introduction of the system of sale under decree of the civil courts, owing to the extension in 1862 of Act VIII of 1859 to Jhansi, and the enactment of the Jhansi Courts Act (XVIII of 1867), soon led to troubles which called urgently for a remedy and occupied the attention of the revenue authorities for a period of 20 years. Mr. Jenkinson pointed out in 1871 that the then existing mortgages and transfers were due to old debts incurred in the time of the Marathas when the revenue demand was excessive, or to injudicious collections of arrears from parganas impoverished by depredations committed during the Mutiny. He urged that the accounts of the money-lenders should be examined by a Government official and an arrangement made for a settlement of accounts and the liquidation of debts. In 1872 the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir William Muir, made a tour in Bundelkhand and was deeply impressed by the necessity of checking the alienation by the landholders of their newly acquired rights, and His Honour considered that steps should be taken to prevent the practice by the introduction of a bill. Mr. Colvin, officiating commissioner of Jhansi, submitted in November 1873 an exhaustive report on the indebtedness of the agricultural classes; and four months later the local Government addressed the Government of India on the general subject of the prevention of sale of land for debt by decree of the civil courts. They suggested a revision of the law of civil procedure which would empower revenue authorities to intervene to save landed property from sale, and they proposed that in the Jhansi division a restriction should be placed on sale, such as the necessity of obtaining the previous sanction of the Board of Revenue. The heavy

First suggestion of legislation.

reductions and continued proposals for revisions of revenue by the local authorities induced Sir John Strachey, in 1875, to order a systematic inquiry into proprietary indebtedness with a view to a final remedy. Mr. J. S. Porter was appointed settlement officer in 1876 with instructions to inquire, firstly, into the question of the pressure of the settlement and, secondly, into that of the indebtedness of the proprietors in Mau, Moth and Garautha. That officer completed investigations in Mau only and was succeeded by Mr. J. J. D. LaTouche, who conducted them in Moth and Garautha. The three reports were submitted in 1877 and the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir George Couper, addressed the Supreme Government on the question. The ascertained debts of the proprietors were estimated at 16½ lakhs of rupees, and the remedy proposed on the suggestion of Mr. LaTouche was special legislation with a view to the liquidation of debts. A bill was drafted on the basis of the Sind Encumbered Estates Act (XIV of 1879) providing for the appointment of a manager of encumbered estates who would determine the amount of the just debts and liabilities and arrange for their liquidation from the income of the property or by mortgage or sale of a portion of it. On the termination of management owners were to be readmitted to settlement on a heritable but not transferable tenure: in case liquidation was not possible, the proprietor was to be declared insolvent and to be released from all his liabilities on sale of his property. Discussion on the proposed legislation continued between 1878 and 1881. In the latter year the Supreme Government added to the bill a section which recognised the intervention of the State in order to prevent ruinous depreciation of the value of land, and the bill was entirely remodelled. The bill as then drafted by the Hon'ble Mr. Colvin subsequently became, with a few modifications, the Jhansi Encumbered Estates Act (XVI of 1882). The scheme of management was dropped, the manager was replaced by a special judge whose function it was to adjudicate upon the claims, and the provisions regarding the treatment of landholders after the close of the operations were entirely omitted. The decrees passed by the special judge might be satisfied either by the cash payment of the amount, or by sale of moveable or immoveable property other than land, or by a loan from the Government on the

Mr. La Touche's proposals.

Jhansi Encumbered Estates Act.

security of the land to an amount not exceeding six times its annual value, or by sale of landed property by auction. If the debt could not be paid by any other means the rights of the proprietor were to be put up to public auction and might be bought in by the Government should no bid be made exceeding ten times the annual profits, a limit subsequently raised to sixteen times the annual profits.

Operations under the Act.

In June 1882 Mr. H. F. Evans was appointed special judge under the Act, and the final report on its working was submitted in April 1887. The Act was made applicable to the whole of the Jhansi division, but was not in fact applied to any other part of it except the Jhansi district. The total number of applications disposed of amounted to 1,475, of which 1,285 were filed voluntarily and 190 were filed by the deputy commissioner: 147 applicants were declared free of liability at the outset, leaving 1,328 applicants against whom Rs. 7,61,855 were decreed out of Rs. 15,39,219 claimed. It was estimated that the reductions effected by the special judge in comparison with what a civil court would have declared amounted to Rs. 3,50,000; and this sum represents approximately the pecuniary relief afforded by the act. Only 267 applicants lost their *zamindari* rights. Putting aside the villages which were transferred to Gwalior in pargana Bhander and some disputed cases, the amount of the liabilities of the landholders within the present district amounted to Rs. 7,12,247. For the liquidation of this amount the Government advanced Rs. 3,30,238 in loans at 5 per cent. interest; it also purchased 68 shares in 49 villages at a cost of Rs. 37,910, estimated to yield 8 per cent. interest. A sum of Rs 88,786 was discharged by debtors in cash or by the sale of moveable property, and of Rs. 2,27,599 by the sale of land. The average price of the land sold was a little over 15 years' purchase. The benefits of the Act were subsequently extended to the 58 villages received from Gwalior in 1886. In this tract 307 claims for sums aggregating Rs. 83,154 were investigated, out of which Rs. 41,061 were awarded by the special judge, Mr. H. M. Bird.

Effects of the Act.

The objects of the Act were said to be, firstly, to prevent the depreciation of the property to be dealt with; secondly, to benefit the ex-proprietor by restoring him to his original position either

of headman or Government agent in the village or of ryot cultivating under Government; and, thirdly, to restore the ryots to their old position of Government tenants, to fix their rents for the term of settlement and to give them a more secure tenure. It was estimated that the permanent relief indicated in the second and third of these objects would be accorded to the proprietors by Government undertaking the management of estates forming a large proportion of the district for a term of about twenty years, at the end of which it was understood that a property free from debt would be restored to the owners, who would in future be debarred from alienating it in any way whatsoever. These objects, however, were defeated by the high prices bid for land put up to auction, and the bill as finally drafted contained no provisions for alteration of tenure or for special treatment of indebted proprietors after they had repaid the Government loans. The full and direct effect of the measure, therefore, was felt over a very small area, being in fact only that of the estates purchased by the Government and covering only 8,731 acres. Considerable temporary relief however was afforded, and the indirect effects of the measure were important. The Board of Revenue thus summed up the effects of the Act: "In the Board's opinion, its permanent good results will be small .. ..The real mistake dates from the time when saleable interest was granted to the Jhansi landlords. If the Act had taken away the right of sale from all landlords who could only pay their debts by the aid of Government loans, it would have done much more good than it has done." The absence of any provisions restricting sale of agricultural land resulted in the work of liquidation having to be done over again; but the operations of the Act supplied valuable experience for the future, and it will be presently seen that when the question of proprietary indebtedness had to be again dealt with twenty years later the lessons of the old Act were not lost sight of.

Settlement of Messrs. Impey and Meston.

The Jhansi district (exclusive of Lalitpur) was declared under settlement by notification dated October 11th, 1888. The detailed survey began in December of the same year and was completed by October 1st, 1890. Mr. W. H. L. Impey was appointed settlement officer on 30th October 1889, and was joined on December 12th of the same year by Mr. J. S. Meston as

assistant settlement officer. Settlement operations were closed on January 31st 1893. The soil classification adopted by these officers followed the natural distinctions recognized in the tract, namely *mar*, *kabar*, *parua* and *rakar*, the last-named soil being divided into *moti* and *patri*. In addition to these, in Jhansi tahsil the moist land in the neighbourhood of rivers and tanks was demarcated separately as *tari*. For the classification of villages into circles the country was first divided according to the prevalence of the natural soils into black-soil tracts, *parua* tracts and *rakar* tracts. Within these tracts the villages were grouped into assessment circles mainly with reference to their rental incidences, consideration being also paid to natural advantages. The chief use of these assessment circles was to bring together groups of villages to which the same set of rates could be applied for the purposes of correcting the rent rolls. In the result the classification gave assessment circles fairly homogeneous in character, composed of villages with similar natural advantages as well as with similar rents. For the selection of standard circle rates the quoted prevailing rates were noted and checked by the actual rents of holdings of uniform soil, while lump rents were analysed. If these rates were found to be supported by the rentals, they were accepted: if not, they were taken into consideration as indicative of the comparative value of different soils. The rate ultimately chosen as a standard rate was that which recurred most frequently or was found in the most important and representative villages. In Moth and the north of Jhansi the rates were based on the *erachhi bigha*, in Mau on the *jataria*, and in Garautha, where the village *bigha* was obviously not the *erachhi* or an approximation to it, it was assumed to be the *jataria*. In the south of Jhansi, generally, no standard of measurement was in force, but the standard to which the village *bigha* most closely approximated was chosen. Rents recorded in *Gajashahi* rupees were converted into British currency at the then prevailing rate of 116 to 100. As regards waste land in holdings only 4,450 out of 71,422 acres, for which rent was recorded and actually realised, were taken into account in assessment. Assumed rates were employed with few exceptions for the valuation of land not held at cash rents. The incidence of accepted rent on tenants' lands was Rs. 2-10-3 per acre, while that on *sir*

and *khudkasht* amounted to Rs. 3-1-7 per acre, a difference which was ascribed to the superiority of soil in proprietary holdings. The revenue assessed, exclusive of the nominal demand on revenue-free and *ubari* estates, was Rs. 5,16,132, an increase of 17 per cent on the former revenue; but as Rs. 23,890 of this sum were derived from the resumption of revenue-free tenures, the actual enhancement on land that previouly paid revenue amounted to only 12 per cent. Fourteen *kans* infested villages were settled for five years only at moderate assessments and progressive assessments were made in 97 mahals, where the enhancement of the demand was large.

Mr. Hoare's settlement of Lalitpur.

In fixing the term of Colonel Davidson's settlement at 20 years the Government had expressed grave doubts as to the sufficiency of that period to enable the district to recover from the terrible calamities of 1868-69, and when the period expired the term was extended by ten years for much the same reason that it had been extended in Jhansi. Lalitpur was cadastrally surveyed during 1895, 1896 and 1897. No verification of the papers was to be carried out, but these instructions were subsequently modified by the order to verify *sir* and irrigated lands; *jamabandis* and revenue-free or favoured tenures were roughly verified by the settlement officer, Mr. Hoare, and his assistant Mr. Goudge. The settlement was conducted on what are now the accepted principles of assessment in this province. Villages were grouped into circles as far as possible according to topographical divisions, and standard rates were framed for each class of soil. The soils accepted in Lalitpur were the recognised soils *moti*, *dumat* and *pathri* to these were added *tari*, subdivided into single and doubled-cropped; and the dry double-cropped area was also kept as a separate class in Lalitpur and Balabehat. The two soils *dumat* and *pathri* had different rates according as they were irrigated or not; and in Mahroni and Madaora the distinction of *tareta* and *har* was introduced, the former being subdivided into wet and dry, and the latter into *moti*, *dumat*, *pathri* and *tari*. The tenants' cash rental of the year of record was generally accepted as a basis for assessment, except in cases in which cultivation by non-resident tenants or excessive fluctuating cultivation rendered an average tenants' cash rental demand safer; and the assumption

area was valued at circle or modified circle rates. In the latter area an allowance for first year's cultivation, or *naugir*, was made by subtracting a valuation of that area from that of the whole assumption area, and in addition to this fallow allowances were made in a few fully developed villages. The real difficulty of the settlement lay in the assessment of the depreciated villages which formed the bulk of the black-soil tracts. In five out of seven parganas the records were compiled in 1895-96 and showed only the effects of the previous calamitous seasons: in the remaining two the records were compiled in 1896-97, and did not show the result of the famine of that year except in the extent of fully rented uncultivated areas in holdings and in the falling-off of the *rabi* area. To avoid unnecessary loss to the Government some assumptions had to be made, and accordingly villages were divided into three classes. Firstly, villages which had not suffered from *quasi*-permanent deterioriation, numbering 562, were assessed in the ordinary way, generally on the figures of the year of record. Secondly, 207 villages which had suffered from *quasi*-permanent deterioration were summarily settled for five years on the estimated assets of 1305 *fasli* (1897-98): for them a normal demand was fixed, and a revised demand was left to be realised in 1311 *fasli* (1903-04) based on the figures of 1310 *fasli* if this was deemed advisable. On the remaining 8 villages the demand was based on the average assets of the years which in the settlement officer's opinion represented the normal state of the villages, the full *jama* to come into operation after three years without further inquiry. In the first class the net demand proposed was Rs. 1,35,221, inclusive of nominal revenue, involving a rise of 8·31 per cent.: on the latter two the expiring demand was reduced from Rs. 57,919 to Rs. 41,957, a decrease of 27·6 per cent. At the same time the normal demand fixed on these villages was Rs. 60,167, making the total ultimate demand realisable for the whole subdivision Rs. 1,97,398, an increase on the actual expiring demand of 8·16 per cent.

Working of these settlements.

When Mr. Impey made his settlement of Jhansi that part of the district was in a depressed condition. Cultivation had fallen off by 9 per cent., but the decrease was to a certain extent discounted on a consideration of averages, and it was thought that

an increase since the previous settlement of 18·81 per cent. in the incidence of the tenants' rental justified an enhancement of revenue. But unless allowance is made in Bundelkhand for varying proportions of *nautor* and fallow, no inference can safely be based on rental incidences. The period since settlement includes the famine of 1896-97 and the terrible rusts which preceded it and destroyed the *rabi*. *Kans* cropped up again, and in 1899-1900 large remissions were found necessary. In 1901-02 large reductions were allowed on a summary reduction of the revenue, and the demand which stood at Rs. 5,38,816 in 1900 was cut down to Rs. 4,67,775, with further special reductions to Rs. 4,49,308. In Lalitpur the last settlement was carried out at a period of great depression: Mr. Hoare's normal assessments were never imposed and in 1903 the whole demand was reduced to Rs. 1,64,879, with further special reductions to Rs. 1,62,791.

The revision of 1903-1906. Neither in Jhansi nor in Lalitpur had more than half of the sanctioned term of settlement run, when a revision of the demand was decided on. The question of introducing some system of fluctuating assessment into Bundelkhand had been mooted twenty years before, and gained prominence in the last decade of the century from the extraordinary calamities that had visited the tract. The proposals of the Government of India in connection with the revision of the settlement of the Jalaun district were crystallized into rules, and it was decided to introduce the new system of fluctuating assessments into all the districts of Bundelkhand without delay. The cardinal features of this system were that all cultivated land should be distinguished as established or fluctuating, all fallow areas and their rents being excluded from the assets; that only the former should be valued for settlement purposes at the full rates; that the latter, which included all land which by local custom paid nominal rents or no rents at all when freshly broken up from waste, should be valued at low rates and the amount added to the assets as *siwai*; and that the assessments fixed should be liable to quinquennial revision, according to increase or decreases of cultivation, at revenue rates fixed by the settlement officer on both classes of land. Mr. Pim was entrusted with charge of the revision in 1903 and completed it in 1906, during two years of which period he was assisted by

Mr. Nelson. No detailed survey was made, and the assessments were based on the village records of 1902-03. The soil classification was not changed and much the same circles as had been formed at the previous settlements were adopted. As much as 116,252 acres of fallow, or 19·42 per cent., were found in cash-rented holdings, on account of which a deduction of Rs. 47,247, or 5·36 per cent., was made from the recorded rental. But of this sum Rs. 14,000 were assessed as *sayar* income, the custom being—especially in Lalitpur—to include grass *runds* and forest rights in holdings. The remaining rental was analysed into that of established and that of *nautor* cultivation. Over the bulk of the district the distinction recognised by the rules prevailed, but in the red-soil tracts of both Jhansi and Lalitpur it was found necessary to substitute *tareta* and *har* for established and *nautor*. For those areas which were rented on the *thanka* or lump rent system, two sets of rates had to be worked out, one for *tareta* and one for *har*, and the rental of established cultivation was then arrived at by deducting the valuation of the latter from that of the whole cultivated area. The materials for deducing rates consisted of the rents of holdings containing each a single soil and of traditional rates; where the latter took the form of soil rates, they indicated the relative values of the soils, permitting analysis of lump rents; and where they were paid on the crop they were applied to the rotation typical of each soil, and the circle rate was the average struck on the series of years during which the rotation lasted. *Nautor* rates were obtained from quoted rates and incidences of holdings containing only *nautor*; but in Lalitpur, where *naugir* land pays no rent in the first year, the average of two years' full rent was spread over the three years during which the land remains *nautor* under the rules. Proprietary cultivation and other assumption areas were valued at standard rates. The recorded area of established cultivation in Jhansi proper was 310,629 acres, and of *nautor* or *har* 110,834 acres. These were valued at Rs. 8,71,418 and Rs. 1,08,554, respectively. With additions for *sayar* and deductions on proprietary cultivation and improvements net assets were computed at Rs. 9,39,679, on which a demand of Rs. 4,51,121 was assessed at 48·01 per

cent. The corresponding figures for Lalitpur were 127,325 acres of established or *tareta* cultivation and 173,266 acres of *nautor* or *har* cultivation. These were valued at Rs. 2,41,180 and Rs. 1,07,260 respectively, net assets amounting, after additions and deductions, to Rs. 3,52,431. On this sum a demand of Rs. 1,61,400 or 45·80 per cent. was fixed. Excluding Gursarai and Kakarwai, the decrease in the revenue in Jhansi totalled Rs. 1,34,594 and in Lalitpur Rs. 40,052, over half of which was reckoned to be due to differences in methods of assessment, and 38 per cent. to loss in assets owing to a fall in rents—especially in Jhansi proper. In 160 mahals the assets would have justified an enhancement of the revenue fixed at the preceding settlement; but this could not be imposed without the consent of the proprietors, and the current revenues were maintained. In all cases, however, the fluctuating system was accepted, and in these estates nominal revenues were fixed on which the demand would be liable to adjustment at the quinquennial revisions.

Remedial legislation.

U. P. Act I of 1903.

The readjustment of the revenue demand, however, on a new basis was not the only measure undertaken on behalf of the distressed proprietors of Bundelkhand. In the statement of "objects and reasons" of the Bundelkhand Encumbered Estates Act of 1903 it was said that "notwithstanding the relief afforded in the district of Jhansi by the action taken between the years 1882 and 1887 under Act XVI of 1882, the special inquiries that have been instituted show that the debts of the landholders have again risen in that district to a large sum. ......The experience of the working of Act XVI of 1882 gained in past years shows that there are certain defects in the Act which require to be remedied and that improvement in some respects is possible. It is accordingly proposed to repeal the Act and to replace it by a measure framed on the same principles but more extended in scope, and with certain additional provisions.*" The Act accordingly introduced and passed in the provincial Legislative Council in 1903 provided for a systematic inquiry into the nature of the debts encumbering private property in land owned by agricultural castes, to be followed where possible by liquidation. The operations fell into three stages.

* These are contained in secs. 10 *(c)*, 14 *(e)*, 20 (2), 21 and 28 of the Act of 1903.

Applications filed under the Act by distressed proprietors were submitted to the collector and subjected by him to a preliminary weeding: those that were held to be valid were submitted by the collector to the commissioner specially appointed under the Act. These applications were next examined by the commissioner in the light of rules issued by the Government, and those that were considered suitable for inquiry were sent to a special judge appointed for the district. The second stage, the proceedings in which were of a judicial character and conducted by the special judge, was the investigation into the nature and extent of the proprietor's debts and the determination on an equitable basis of the amount due to the creditor. The final stage was the liquidation by the collector of the special judge's awards in the various ways specified by the Act. In the Jhansi district 3,997 applications were submitted to the collector or put in by him *suo motu*, out of which 3,533 were sent to the commissioner. The commissioner referred 2,269 of these to the special judge, the sum claimed thereon amounting to Rs. 21,81,993. Out of the total number of claims actually advanced, the special judge allowed 7,206 and gave awards for Rs. 11,68,125 only. In the final stage, in 346 of the cases decided by the special judge liquidation was found impossible; in 110 others the award was satisfied in part only and the balance was deemed to be discharged under the Act; and in 1,517 the award was discharged in full either by the debtor personally or with the help of a loan from the Government: for this purpose a sum of Rs. 7,44,968 was advanced from the public treasury at 5 per cent. interest and recoverable by easy instalments.

The Alienation of Land Act.

On this occasion the measure was reinforced by an Alienation of Land Act (United Provinces Act II of 1903). "The attempt made in the years 1882 to 1887," it was said, "to relieve the indebted proprietors of the Jhansi district did not meet with the degree of success anticipated, partly because a measure which was strongly advocated at the time—the limitation of the landholder's power of transfer of his land—was not adopted. In these circumstances it is proposed to extend to Bundelkhand, with such modifications as may be necessary, the law recently introduced in the Punjab for the restriction of the alienation of agricultural

land." The Act now introduced prohibited, except under the sanction of the collector, any permanent alienation of land except by members of non-agricultural tribes or between members of the same agricultural tribe* or between members of any agricultural tribe unless both were residents of the same district as that in which the land to be transferred was situated. In addition to this, temporary alienations of land by agricultural tribes were restricted to mortgages without possession, or to usufructuary mortgages and leases for a term not exceeding twenty years while all conditions intended to act by way of conditional sale were absolutely interdicted. The limited period during which the Act has been so far in operation prevents any definite conclusions from being drawn, but there is no reason to doubt that its primary object, namely, to prevent the land passing into the hands of capitalists and money-lenders, will be amply achieved.

Cesses.

In addition to the regular demand the usual cesses are levied. These consist at the present time of the consolidated ten per cent. local rate collected under United Provinces Act II of 1906. The amount thus realized in the year of settlement is shown in the appendix.† The *patwari* cess was abolished in 1906.

Police stations.

For the purposes of police administration the district is divided at present into 35 circles, of which 16 are situated in the subdivision and the remainder in Jhansi proper: of this number eight are wholly or in part urban and the rest rural. The city stations are located in Jhansi city, New Jhansi and the Sadr Bazar, the first having a small rural area attached, while the other stations at Mau, Lalitpur, Barwa Sagar, Talbehat, Chirgaon, Moth and Mahroni, where the Municipalities Act or Act XX of 1856 is in force, have considerable tracts of the surrounding country within their respective jurisdictions. The circles of the rural police stations have been allocated without regard, as a rule,

* The tribes deemed "agricultural" for the purposes of the Act were specially notified in the *United Provinces Gazette*, 1903, Part I, p. 490. They are Thakurs, Brahmans (excluding Marwaris), Kurmis, Ahirs, Kachhis, Malis, Muraos, Gadariyas, Lodhis and Musalman Rajputs.

† Appendix, table, X.

to tahsil or pargana boundaries. In the Jhansi tahsil, there are stations at present at Baragaon, Babina, Raksa, and Barwa Sagar: that at Barwa Sagar comprises 8 villages in Mau, and 17 villages within the headquarters tahsil fall within the circle of Chirgaon in Moth. In Moth tahsil, besides Chirgaon, there are stations at Moth itself, Erachh and Baghaira. Garautha tahsil is divided between the circles of Garautha, Kakarwai, Pandwaha and Gursarai, while 19 villages are attached to the station of Erachh and 9 to that of Baghaira, situated in tahsil Moth. Mau tahsil is comprised in the circles of Mau, Uldan and Katera, three villages falling within the jurisdiction of Pandwaha besides the 8 belonging to Barwa Sagar. In the subdivision, the tahsil of Lalitpur is divided between the circles of Lalitpur, Jakhlon, Birdha, Kelwara, Bansi, Jakhaura, Talbehat, Nathikhera and Dudhai; and tahsil Mahroni between those of Bar, Banpur, Mahroni, Sonjna, Madaora, Girar and Narhat; but 21 villages in tahsil Lalitpur belong to the Bar circle, one to that of Mahroni and one to that of Narhat. Among parganas the Jakhlon station is common to Bansi and Talbehat, the Bar station to Lalitpur, Banpur and Talbehat, the Mahroni and Madaora stations to the parganas of the same name, and that at Narhat to parganas Madaora and Balabehat.

Statistics of criminal justice and cognizable crime for each year since 1896 will be found in the appendix.* From these it will be seen that, though criminal work is not heavy in ordinary years, bad seasons, such as 1897 and 1900, result in a greatly increased volume of crime. Offences against the public tranquillity and peace are generally uncommon, but crimes of violence are not infrequent and property, especially along the borders of the native states, cannot be regarded as otherwise than insecure. The district, which is surrounded by independent territory in Lalitpur and interlaced with it in Jhansi proper, is well suited for the depredations of bad characters residing beyond its borders, who have ready means of escape which enable them to defy capture, and who are commonly assisted by men of similar habits living within its limits. Akin to house-burglary and robbery is cattle theft, which is to a certain extent prevalent Crime.

* Appendix, tables VII and VIII.

throughout the district, and for which its configuration offers the same facilities. This class of crime fluctuates according to the nature of the season in the same manner as simple theft, and is most difficult to detect.

Dacoity. A more serious matter is the number and gravity of the dacoities that occur, every year being marked by a number which vary from small highway robberies to armed violence of a sanguinary type. In this respect though both portions of the district are sufferers, the subdivision of Lalitpur has the greater notoriety. Dacoity is the form of crime to which the Bundela Rajput always reverts when pressed by hard times if the alertness of the authorities is in the least relaxed, and some of their achievements in this line are sufficiently notorious to be placed on record. **Outbreak of 1871-75.** After the disturbances connected with the Mutiny had been finally quelled little trouble was experienced from dacoits till the year 1871, when the depredations of a gang began which were not finally quelled till 1875. The original leaders were Dalip Singh and Randhir Singh, both of whom had been in the previous year captured and incarcerated. In July 1871 Dalip Singh effected his escape from the Lalitpur jail, and a few months later was joined by Randhir Singh, a native of Bijaipura in the subdivision, who broke out from the central prison at Allahabad, taking one Mangalia with him. In November these two men commenced a series of robberies attended with various forms of violence, secreting themselves in in the rocky jungle-covered wastes of Lalitpur and adjacent native territory, where the inhabitants are scattered in widely separated villages and consist of fellow Rajputs who were well disposed towards them. By December 26th 1872 the gang had increased to nine in number and it carried out an attack on the house of Musammat Ganesh Kunwar, a native of Bijaipura, Randhir's own birthplace. The attack was made out of revenge for the information laid by the victim and her sons which led to Randhir's capture in 1870. The three sons were murdered in cold blood and Musammat Ganesh Kunwar herself was cruelly mutilated. On the same occasion the dacoits plundered four other houses in the village and decamped with whatever other booty they could lay their hands on. On January 6th and 12th 1873, other

robberies were committed by the same party, and on the 17th a Bania was looted and, after being carried about for several days pending the satisfaction of the demand for ransom, murdered. The names of the nine members of the gang who were recognized were Randhir Singh, his brother Jangi Singh, Dalip Singh, Mangalia, Daulat Singh, Dariao Singh, Parbat Singh, Raja Ram and Ram Pershad. On February 14th Dalip Singh was surprised and shot by Abdullah Khan of the Lalitpur police, and during the same year Ram Pershad was captured by Fateh Singh, inspector of police, Parbat Singh was taken at his native village of Baponi in Gwalior by the Jhansi police, and Dariao Singh was apprehended by Dhunde Khan, a *dafadar* of the Central India Horse. The remainder of the gang continued its depredations, and on December 23rd attacked the village of Jarauli, carrying off property to the value of Rs. 2,000 and committing another murder. The police however managed to appear on the scene as the dacoits were leaving it, and a running fight ensued in which Daulat Singh and one constable lost their lives. The party now reduced to four were joined by Bholeju, a native of the subdivision, but for the most part avoided British territory, skulking in the adjoining territory of Gwalior and Orchha. On May 20th they murdered two men and wounded five, and six days later one Bhujbal Singh, a relative of the informer who had facilitated the capture of Dariao Singh, was killed by Randhir Singh. On May 31st the house of a Brahman was attacked, two men being killed, five wounded and Rs. 4,610 worth of property carried off. Special guards were now posted along the whole length of the Orchha border and during 1874 no further dacoities were committed in the district, but in October of that year Raja Ram was captured and shortly after Mangalia is believed to have left the gang, whose numbers were thus reduced to three. In March 1875 these three men again ventured near British territory. This led to an affair near Tila in which one sub-inspector and two constables were killed and one constable mortally wounded. Extensive preparations were now made to bring the party to justice. Information was gathered on all sides and communicated to the commissioner, deputy commissioner, the political agents of the adjoining native states and Captain Buller, commanding the Central India

Horse. At the beginning of June Captain Liston, officiating deputy commissioner of Jhansi, hearing that the party was going to cross from Orchha to Gwalior across the narrow neck of British territory in the north of Lalitpur, which separates the two states, resolved to intercept them. Mr. Finn, extra assistant commissioner, was posted at Talbehat and Mr. Campbell, superintendent of police, in the neighbourhood of Bansi. On June 15th Mr. Finn received information from the *lambardars* of Karesra Khurd that the dacoits were hiding in a hill in their village known as Kari Toran. He immediately left Talbehat with a suitable force of police and Central India Horse and reached the village in the afternoon. Sub-inspector Nathe Khan took the dacoits unawares, got close to their hiding place and shot Randhir Singh at the outset. Desultory firing continued for over three hours, when a rush was made and the party finally disposed of. The three members left of the original gang, and one Parichhat and two men not recognized who had joined it since the affair at Tila, were all shot.

Dacoities 1889-09.

From the death of Randhir Singh in June 1875 until 1889 there was a period of peace, but in the following year there was another serious outbreak, no less than 56 dacoities and 14 robberies occurring between February and September of that year, in spite of the fact that punitive police had been quartered in the villages of Bansi, Banpur and Talbehat, which were specially responsible for the dacoities. "By October 1st, besides at least three organized gangs, there was a very large number of armed *badmashes* about, ready to join together or to join any of these organized gangs. These three gangs each numbered only about 18 professional dacoits, but whenever any of them actually started on a dacoity expedition its number used generally to swell to 25 or 30 by reinforcements of bad characters who were in most cases near relatives of the professional dacoits."* Mr. Lloyd, as deputy commissioner, was specially selected to cope with this outbreak. The European district staff was considerably increased and a large additional force of police drafted to Lalitpur.

* Government resolution no. $\frac{434}{VIII-138}$ A. 42-43, dated 21st April 1891 (Police department.)

The result is thus described in the Government resolution on the subject: "Beside these three gangs a large *jagirdar* and member of the district board kept a number of ruffianly retainers and was more than suspected of not only winking at their outrages, but of actually abetting or organizing their raids. The foremost gang was that of Banaphar, also known as Sarup Singh, a subject of the Orchha state, with whom were 14 others. Next to Banaphar's gang in notoriety was Mahip Singh's. In this gang were at least 14 men, and he had himself been on former occasions successively tried and acquitted in Lalitpur, Saugor and Gwalior. The third gang was that of Kalyan Singh of the Lalitpur district, with whom were 16 other men. Kalyan Singh had surrendered himself in August 1891, but was allowed to go and returned to his former practices. Of the first or Banaphar's gang seven members have been killed and seven were apprehended by the Orchha government on the 19th December, the eighth having been killed in Gwalior territory in a private quarrel The second gang, Mahip Singh's, was surrounded on the 19th December on the banks of the Betwa river, Mahip Singh and two of the gang being killed: eleven members of the gang were arrested and three men are apparently still at large. On December 5th the third gang was intercepted crossing the river Betwa into Gwalior when one of them was shot and another wounded. On December 9th word was sent to Mr. Lloyd that four of the dacoits belonging to this gang would give themselves up to him if he went to a spot indicated to him, unattended by police. He went there attended by Mr. Molony and was met after dark in the jungle by four dacoits who gave themselves up to him. Kalyan Singh, the leader, was apprehended about two months later, and of the whole gang three men only up to the present time are believed to have escaped arrest. The *jagirdar* and member of the district board who has been referred to as abetting and organizing raids by dacoits was apprehended on suspicion of complicity in dacoity and shot himself while being escorted into Lalitpur on October 21st." Throughout the operations for the suppression of this outbreak the district authorities received the fullest support and active assistance of the Orchha and Gwalior darbars as well as of the political agents of the various states concerned. In addition to

the measures taken to cope with outlaws, on October 6th 1890 section 15 of the Arms Act (XI of 1878), prohibiting any person having in his possession any arms of any description except to the extent permitted by special license, was extended to Lalitpur, with the result that by the following September 1,574 guns, 1,344 swords and 274 miscellaneous weapons had been surrendered, and in their place licenses granted for only 339 guns and 171 swords.

Since 1891 dacoities have only been sporadic and have never been numerous. In 1898-99 the dangerous Karar Khera gang was afield in Gwalior near the borders of the subdivision, but very few crimes were committed by it within the limits of British territory; some dacoities which occurred were ascribed to amateurs who found the attractions of the example set them irresistible. Many members of the gang or their friends were shot or captured in Gwalior, where the state troops were employed in their pursuit during the autumn of 1898. The last members to remain in the field were finally brought to bay in May 1899 by Messrs. Goad and Richardson of the United Provinces Police, when two members were shot and the rest captured at Sanori, pargana Talbehat. Punitive police were quartered in 17 villages of the subdivision which were proved to have assisted the gang, and since that year the district has not been troubled by any serious outbreak of this form of crime.

Infanticide. The practice of female infanticide does not appear ever to have prevailed to any large extent in the district, and the main Rajput clan, the Bundela, has never been accused of being addicted to this form of crime. The first repressive measures were undertaken after the introduction of Act VIII of 1870, and in 1875 the Parihars of the villages Deori, Tharro, Ghatiari and Dumrai in tahsil Garautha, the Janwars of Lohari and the Sengars of Sijari Buzurg in Mau were proclaimed as suspected. The Lalitpur subdivision was never subjected to the operations of the Act. The provisions of the Act were gradually withdrawn from the district in 1890, after they had been in force fifteen years, when the detailed census of the infant population led to the conclusion that the practice had practically died out. Nothing has since occurred to suggest that this is not the case.

There are two jails in the district, one being located at Jhansi itself and the other at Lalitpur. The former, which was built in 1851, is officially classed as a third-class jail capable of accommodating as many as 300 prisoners. That at Lalitpur is a fifth-class jail with accommodation for 100 prisoners, but its real capacity is much larger : it dates from 1860, when Lalitpur was a district. At Jhansi prisoners with a longer sentence than two years are not ordinarily kept in the district prison, while at Lalitpur only those with terms not exceeding six months are confined : long-term convicts are usually transferred to the larger central prisons. The average number of persons in both jails is 280. The ordinary industries such as carpet weaving, mat-making, oil-pressing, mill-grinding and the like are carried on, and woollen carpets are also manufactured. Civil prisoners confined for debt are lodged in a portion of the jail set apart for the purpose. **Jails.**

Ever since the introduction of British rule excise has formed a part of the Government revenue. In early days the system adopted of raising revenue was the same as that in vogue in the rest of the province, the shops being put up to auction. This was abandoned in 1869, a fixed rate per shop being substituted ; and in the following year the system was again changed in favour of a graded rate per shop ranging from Rs. 12 to Rs. 240 per annum, according to the amount of liquor sold. In 1872 the distillery system was introduced, but it was considered inapplicable to the poorer, sparsely populated and outlying tracts of Jhansi and Lalitpur, and the farm of the sale of country liquor in these was sold by auction for the pargana or tahsil. This system remained in force till 1881, when the outstill system was for the first time introduced. It was however at first only applied to pargana Lalitpur, the rest of the district remaining under the farming system. In 1883 Jhansi proper was divided into six farms constituted out of the four tahsils, the cantonments and the Gursarai estate, while in Lalitpur six parganas were farmed and the pargana of Lalitpur remained under the outstill system. In 1889 the outstill system was introduced into tahsils Moth and Garautha, and shortly after extended to tahsil Mau and parganas Bansi, Talbehat, Bala-behat, Banpur and Mahroni : in 1893 only tahsil Jhansi, including **Excise.**

the city and cantonments, and pargana Madaora remained under the farming system. In 1896 tahsils Moth, Garautha and Mau were again placed under the farming system for a period of three years, the Gursarai *jagir* being now included for purposes of excise in Garautha. The outstill system was then reintroduced into these tracts in 1899, but it was abolished in Mau and Moth in 1900 when the entire subdivision of Lalitpur except Madaora was again brought under the farming system. In the following year the farming system was retained only in parganas Jhansi, Mau, Madaora, Banpur and Mahroni, the remainder reverting to the outstill system. In 1903 the latter system was reapplied to Banpur and Mahroni. Lastly, in 1906-07, the farming system was extended to Moth, with the result that Jhansi, Moth, Mau and pargana Madaora were under the outstill and the remainder of the district under the farming system. The spirit sold is almost exclusively manufactured from *mahua* which grows plentifully in the district, and the revenue is entirely derived from the sums paid by the licensees of outstills and farmers of the manufacture and vend in the local areas put up to auction.

Excise revenue.

Statistics of excise revenue since 1891 will be found in the appendix.* The receipts from country spirits from 1877 to 1887 averaged Rs. 4,127 in outstill tracts and Rs. 2,244 in farmed tracts. In the following decade, from 1887 to 1897, these rose to Rs. 8,377 and Rs. 35,103 respectively, and the average would have been higher but for the famine of 1896-97 when the consumption in the outstill area considerably declined. From 1897 to 1907 the average receipts have been Rs. 7,927 for outstills and Rs. 41,944 for farms; but they have been during this period adversely affected on four occasions, and in 1900-01 the sum obtained for outstills amounted only to Rs. 606. The income in farmed tracts has generally maintained a high level, and during the last four years on record has largely exceeded the average. In 1908 there were 234 shops for the retail of country liquor in the district, but no statistics of consumption are available under the systems in force. All the lower castes are addicted to liquor. Illicit distillation is not prevalent, but

* Appendix, table XI.

owing to the way in which the district is interlaced with independent territory smuggling is of frequent occurrence and is very difficult to detect. Moreover there is a number of shops belonging to the independent chiefs which are situated on the very borders of the district; these supply liquor to the residents of the district and injure to some extent the interests of the licensed vendors of Jhansi, besides encouraging smuggling. The Raja of Katera has the right to sell the liquor shops in the six villages he holds revenue-free so long as he holds them revenue-free, that is, in Katera in perpetuity and in the other five villages during his lifetime.

Hemp drugs. No hemp drugs are manufactured in the district and the consumption is confined to imported products. In early days the right to sell drugs was sold by auction in each pargana for one year, and *ganja* of the *pathar* variety and *bhang* were generally obtained from Gwalior or Khandwa. The moderate use of *bhang* is almost universal among the Bundela and other Rajputs of the district, while the demand for *ganja* was originally confined to the lower classes in towns. From 1892 to 1896, an average of 186 maunds of *ganja* and 85 of *bhang* were consumed within the district, while the demand for *charas* was very variable. With the introduction of bonded warehouses in 1896, and the imposition and subsequent changes of duty on *charas* and *ganja* in 1898 and following years, the consumption of hemp drugs has considerably declined; and during the ten years from 1897 to 1906 an average of 7½ maunds of *charas*, 9¼ maunds of *ganja* and 35½ maunds of *bhang* have been consumed. The receipts in fees during the same periods averaged Rs. 4,085 between 1892 and 1896, and Rs. 5,828 between 1897 and 1906, the highest recorded income being that of 1906-07 when Rs. 8,733 were obtained. The farm of the entire district is now usually given for a period of three years, and in 1908 there were 67 shops open for the retail sale of drugs.

Opium. A certain amount of opium is consumed in the district. In 1881 poppy cultivation was introduced into portions of Jhansi and Lalitpur, but was discontinued in the latter tract in 1889. Since then it has been permitted only in Moth and Jhansi, but the district is liable to smuggling from adjacent native states. The

amount of opium sold has not varied much: from 1877 to 1886 it averaged to 28 maunds; from 1887 to 1896, to 39¼ maunds; and during the last ten years it has averaged 36¾ maunds. Up to the year 1900 opium was sold retail by the Government treasurer as well as by the licensed vendors, but the abolition of the official vend does not appear to have affected consumption. The total receipts, which averaged Rs. 10,914 between 1877 and 1886 and Rs. 17,426 between 1887 and 1896, have risen to Rs. 19,000 between 1901 and 1906; but the rise is in fact due to the purchase of opium by native states from Jhansi. Opium is now sold at Rs. 18 per *ser* to the vendors and retailed at four or five annas per *tola*. The practice of smoking *chandu* is said to have been very prevalent in former days among the low class population of the towns but has now been suppressed. In 1908 there were only 24 shops open in the district for the retail sale of opium.

Income-tax. The collection of income-tax under the present system dates from the introduction of Act II of 1886. The only important modification that has since taken place is the exemption from taxation of incomes under Rs. 1,000 in 1904. Statistics of assessees and collections since 1891, both for the whole district and for the various tahsils, will be found in the appendix.* The average receipts from "other sources" for the ten years preceding 1904 were Rs. 31,222 paid by 1,202 assessees, while after the introduction of the new rules the receipts fell to Rs. 21,682 and the number of persons assessed to 435. The bulk of the tax is collected in the city and tahsil of Jhansi, but throughout the district the number of those whose income is reckoned as over Rs. 2,000 is small. Among tahsils Mau pays the most, and here as in Jhansi the receipts are swollen by the existence of a larger number of merchants and traders in the headquarters town of the tahsil.

Registration. When Jhansi and Lalitpur were first formed into districts the office of registrar was held by the principal sadr amin, and there was a suboffice for the registration of documents at each of the tahsil headquarters, the post of subregistrar being held

* Appendix, tables XIII and XIV.

by the tahsildar. When Jhansi became a division the registrar was the deputy commissioner, the suboffices remaining as before. In 1881 the subdistricts were reallocated throughout the Province of Agra, and from that time, in addition to the suboffices at tahsil headquarters, the second son of the Raja of Gursarai became subregistrar for the Gursarai estate, and the cantonment magistrate of Jhansi for the area within cantonments.

Since the abolition of the Jhansi division in 1891 the district judge has held the office of registrar of the old districts of Jhansi and Lalitpur. The subdistricts at first remained as they were formed in 1881, but in 1897 they were considerably curtailed. The office of subregistrar held by the cantonment magistrate and that at Moth tahsil were abolished, the work of registration being carried on for the whole of Jhansi and Moth tahsils by a single officer stationed at Jhansi. In the same way that at Garautha was closed and the privilege withdrawn from the Gursarai *ubaridars*, the subregistrar of Mau becoming subregistrar for those two portions of the district as well as for his own: similarly in the subdivision the subdistrict of Mahroni was merged in Lalitpur. In this manner for the purposes of registration the entire district of Jhansi became a single district, with the three subdistricts of Jhansi, Mau and Lalitpur. At the same time within these subdistricts joint subregistrarships were constituted at Moth, Garautha and Mahroni under section 37 of the Indian Registration Act of 1877. In 1871-72, under the old Registration Act (VIII of 1871) 537 documents were registered, on which fees to the amount of Rs. 1,338 were collected in Jhansi proper, while 134 documents charged to Rs. 212 were registered in Lalitpur. Twenty years later the fees had risen to Rs. 5,568 and the number of documents to 2,124 for the whole district. Since the passing of the Bundelkhand Encumbered Estates and Land Alienation Acts of 1903 there has been a marked decrease. During the last four years only 954 documents have been annually registered on an average, bringing in total receipts of Rs. 2,131. In earlier times the people appear to have been content with oral agreements, the denial of a transaction even though unsupported by written evidence being rare and deemed

dishonourable. This is still to some extent the case; but the growth of intelligence, the extension of education and improvement in means of communication, coupled, especially in Jhansi proper, with the influence of money-lenders who prefer to secure their claims by written documents in the event of a resort to the civil courts, has worked a change in the habits of the people. The total expenditure has decreased *pari passu* with the income and for the same period has averaged Rs. 3,065. The heaviest work is naturally done in the Jhansi office and after this in Mau, the subdivision being a much more backward tract. The area in charge of the registrar includes the whole of Jalaun in addition to this district.

Stamps.

A table in the appendix shows the annual income derived from stamps since 1891.* Stamp duties are collected under the Indian Stamp Act (II of 1899) and the Court-Fees Act (VII of 1870). The total receipts in 1871-72 were Rs. 29,561, and twenty years later these had risen to Rs. 83,086. From 1891 to 1908 the average has been Rs. 79,167; and of this 30 per cent. was derived from non-judicial stamps and 70 per cent. from the sale of court-fee stamps, including copies. The average annual charges for the same period were Rs. 2,152.

Postal arrangements.

In the earliest days of the British occupation postal through communication appears to have been made *viâ* Kalpi with Cawnpore, but there must have been some channel of correspondence between the officials on the spot and the Governor-General's agent who resided at Banda, though no details are forthcoming. Similarly on the transfer of the districts to the Saugor and Nerbudda territories the same necessity must have existed for communication with Jabalpur. The district dâk, which was thrown open to private correspondence in 1845, remained entirely in the hands of the local authorities till 1864, when its management was transferred to the Postal department, which established regular offices wherever such a step was deemed necessary. Postmen were then first attached to each office for the delivery of letters and replaced the old system of delivery by *chaukidars* and head constables. Since that date steady improvement in postal communications has taken place, and district

* Appendix, table XII.

offices have gradually ceased to exist. Under the present arrangements the offices in the district are under the control of the postmaster of Agra and the superintendent of the Bundelkhand division. A list of all the post offices in existence in 1908 will be found in the appendix. In addition to the head office at Jhansi there are 10 sub-offices and 45 branch-offices. The mails are conveyed by rail as far as possible, and where this is not feasible carriage is effected by runners.

Telegraphs. The main telegraph lines in the district run alongside the railways. Telegrams can be sent from all railway stations except those of Rura and Orchha. Besides these there are combined post and telegraph offices at Jhansi city, Jhansi cantonments, Chirgaon, Mau-Ranipur and Lalitpur which are connected by wire with the main lines and where messages are received for transmission. Through lines exist from Jhansi to Mau, Lalitpur, Agra and Cawnpore. Besides these public lines the Canal department has its own wires running along the Betwa canal: one connects Dhukwan with the head office at Jhansi; and another runs to the head works at Parichha, continuing thence as far as Pulia on the main canal. The line is a private one erected for purposes connected with the canal.

Municipalities. Local self-government is represented in this district by the three municipalities of Jhansi, Lalitpur and Mau-Ranipur, the Act XX towns of Barwa Sagar, Talbehat, Chirgaon, Moth and Mahroni and the district board.* Jhansi was first constituted a municipality in 1867 under Act XXVI of 1850 "for the purposes of supplying a sufficient force of police and making better provision for conservancy and the general improvement" of a specified area.† This area then included only the civil station of Jhansi, New Jhansi and the suburb of Talpura; and a small committee under the presidency of the deputy commissioner was constituted to administer it. The deputy commissioner, the senior assistant commissioner and the civil surgeon were *ex-officio* members, while the executive engineer and two residents of the area were nominated. When the

* Gursarai and Katera have a modified form of octroi taxation under Act III of 1901, which is described in the articles on those places.

† Notification no. 8145A, dated 19th September 1867.

city and fort of Jhansi were handed over to the British in 1886, the Municipal Act (XV of 1873)* was extended to the newly acquired city of Jhansi and its suburbs in the villages of Qasba Jhansi and Dhandiapura, and the boundaries† of the municipality were subsequently defined. In 1890 these were extended to embrace Harlalganj. The constitution of the original committee was modified in accordance with the provisions of Act XV of 1873, under section 6 of which rules for the regulation of elections were framed by the board in 1893. This was replaced by United Provinces Act I of 1900 which is at present in force. The municipal board, of which the district magistrate is *ex-officio* chairman, consists of 16 members, 10 being elected and not more than six, excluding the chairman, appointed. The rules framed in 1898 provided for the division of the city into six wards, each returning two members with the exception of the Sipri Nai Basti Ward and Ward no. IV, which returned only one member each. In 1903 some modifications regarding the retirement and rotation of office among members were introduced into the rules, but their number was not altered. The office of secretary is held by a paid servant of the board. The first tax to be imposed was one on houses and lands in 1870, and from this source the main income of the municipality was derived till 1886, when an octroi schedule specially framed to protect through trade from taxation was introduced and worked at half rates only up to March 1891, when full rates were imposed. This income was supplemented by a tax on weighmen first imposed in 1887, on animals for slaughter in 1892 and on vehicles in 1893. All these taxes are still collected, though the method of imposition and collection has from time to time been altered. The income is further increased by miscellaneous items such as pound receipts, fines and license-fees. The details of income and expenditure since 1891 will be found in the appendix.‡ The averages for the ten years ending 1907-08 were Rs. 71,814 and Rs. 69,068 respectively : the bulk of the latter falls under the head of conservancy and health. Of the various enactments extended to the Jhansi municipality

* Notification no. 1567 XI—460, dated August 11th, 1886.

† Notification no. 1778 XI—460, dated 29th October 1826.

‡ Appendix, table XVI.

mention may be made of the Hackney Carriage Act (XIV of 1879), applied in 1886; the Vaccination Act (XIII of 1880), applied in 1891; and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (XI of 1890), applied in 1902.

Water-supply and drainage.

The water-supply of the city depends on a number of wells, of which the most important are five, situated close together in the north-west corner of the city and known as the *pachkuiyan*. In all normal years these afford sufficient water for domestic purposes, but in years of drought the supply is apt to be reduced so low that considerable hardship is entailed on the inhabitants. A scheme for the utilisation of the water in these wells by the aid of pumps was considered by Messrs. Perrin and Boyce in 1899, but was found not to be feasible and abandoned as the supply was insufficient. A serious deficiency of potable water in 1906 brought the matter again to the fore, owing to the large increase in the population of both city and cantonments at Jhansi; and the question of the introduction of a supply from a reservoir on the Pahuj river was mooted. A plan was then contemplated for utilising the water to be impounded behind a dam projected by the Irrigation department in connection with the Pahuj canal scheme near the Sipri road bridge; but it was afterwards discovered that a portion of the bed of the reservoir had been used by the railway authorities as a trenching-ground and, owing to the risk of contamination from this source, the plan was condemned by the sanitary commissioner. Further discussion followed during 1907, and in the following year the question was exhaustively investigated by the sanitary engineer. It was then ascertained that there were four alternative schemes for supplying Jhansi city and cantonments with water. The first alternative contemplated the formation of a reservoir at Chamraua on the Pahuj river, some 10 miles above the irrigation dam. From this the water was to be gravitated in a masonry closed duct about 8 miles long to a high ridge a short distance to the south of cantonments and, after filtration, to be passed on through an iron pipe to a small distribution reservoir near the fort. The second proposal made was to pump the supply from the irrigation reservoir near the Gwalior road crossing; and the third was to pump from a reservoir at the point where the river is passed

by the Sipri road; while the fourth alternative suggested an enlargement of the existing railway reservoir and a combined scheme for pumping the supply from this both for the railway and for the city and cantonments. As regards the second and third alternatives the installation of a pumping plant was found to involve considerable extra expense, which would be increased by the part or a whole of that of erecting a dam across the river near the Sipri road. The scheme was also condemned on account of the annual presence of a large artillery camp in the immediate proximity; and of all the proposals, that of the reservoir at Chamraua commended itself as best to the authorities concerned. A difficulty now arose owing to a protest on the part of the officials of the railway. The erection of a dam at Chamraua was considered by them objectionable on the ground that it would interfere with the catchment of their reservoir at Garhia and materially reduce the run off into it. As a result of this protest the proposal for a joint scheme with the railway came under discussion; but up to the present time no conclusion has been reached regarding the merits of independent or joint storage for the supply of water, though in the near future an adjustment of the relative claims of all parties is expected. Owing to its excellent situation on high and gently sloping land Jhansi is well drained and healthy, the main thoroughfares having for the most part been supplied with masonry channels along the drainage lines. Hitherto fresh ones have been provided from time to time, as need arose; but at the end of 1907, in view of the fact that the city would be furnished with a properly conducted water-supply, the preparation of a comprehensive drainage scheme, which had been previously mooted, was undertaken. During 1908 levels were taken, and the preparation of plans and estimates was taken in hand under the direction of the sanitary engineer.

Cantonments.

The area occupied by the troops stationed at Jhansi was notified as a military cantonment in 1884 under Act XXII of 1864 (subsequently repealed). The provisions of Act XX of 1856 were applied * in the same year for the administration of the area, and a tax was authorized to be levied by a rate on houses and grounds according to their annual value. When the

* Notification no. 150, dated November 21st, 1864.

fort and city of Jhansi were ceded to the British and that of Gwalior was evacuated in 1886, the limits of the cantonments were considerably extended for the accommodation of a larger garrison, and under the amended Cantonments Act (XIII of 1889) the fort* was declared within the limits of cantonments in 1891 and the boundaries† of the whole were was accurately defined in 1892. In 1888 the levy of octroi duties was authorized, and the Municipal Act and the rules in force in Jhansi municipality were applied to its collection, which was undertaken by the municipal committee. In 1890 the old *chaukidari*-tax was abolished and a house-tax was substituted at 7½ per cent. on the annual value, to supplement the income derived from octroi and miscellaneous receipts. The present area of cantonments is 3,498 acres, and they are managed by a cantonment committee under the Act; the average income for the last five years has being Rs 35,485 and the average expenditure Rs. 32,550. Proposals have been submitted to extend the limits by 500 acres, and both income and expenditure are expanding largely. The enactments in force in the municipality are applied generally to the area under the control of the cantonment committee, which is constituted in the usual manner under the Act.

Lalitpur was first constituted a municipality under Act VI of 1868 in the year 1870, when the municipal committee was authorized to levy duties on certain goods brought within the limits of the township for consumption and to appropriate the rents of *nazul* property, the proceeds of pounds, the income from *sarais* and the fines exacted under the Gambling Act. The committee consisted of 12 members, one-third of whom were official and two-thirds non-official, the deputy commissioner, the pargana officer, the medical officer and the district superintendent of police being *ex-officio* members. Octroi duties were imposed in 1874 and have been amended in various ways subsequently, and the boundaries of the town have been from time to time revised. The town is now administered under Act I of 1900, the income from octroi being supplemented by a tax on weighmen and other miscellaneous items. The board **Lalitpur.**

* Notification no. 367, XII—250., dated 24th March 1891.

† Notification no. 233, XII—420. dated 17th February 1892.

consists of 12 members, the subdivisional officer of Lalitpur being *ex-officio* chairman, and the remainder being appointed by virtue of office or by name on the nomination of the subdivisional officer. The Vaccination Act (XIII of 1880) was extended to Lalitpur in 1894.

Mau-Ranipur. The two towns of Mau and Ranipur were combined and constituted a single municipal area under Act VI of 1868 in the year 1869. Octroi duties were first levied in 1874, and have been on several occasions modified since. In 1870 a tax on professions was imposed, and in 1888 a duty on cloth. These, together with certain fines and fees, are the main sources of income. The old municipal committee was constituted a board in 1884, when the principle of election was introduced, the towns being divided into six wards returning three elected members each. This number was finally reduced to two for each ward in 1902. The Board now consists of 12 members, 9 of whom, including the chairman, are elected according to rules in force.

Act XX towns. Five places are at present administered under the provisions of Act XX of 1856. These comprise the towns of Moth, to which the Act was extended in 1863; Barwa Sagar and Chirgaon, since 1870; and Talbehat and Mahroni, since 1872. The town of Bhander was similarly administered from 1865 till its retrocession to Gwalior, and in 1901 the provisions of the Act were withdrawn from Baragaon. The income in all these cases is derived from the usual house-tax, supplemented, in the case of Chirgaon, Moth and Mahroni, by a tax on weighmen: details of receipts and expenditure will be found in the several articles on these places.

District board. Beyond the limits of the municipalities and cantonments local affairs are now administered by the district board. In the majority of districts in the provinces the district boards date from the year 1884, and were constituted under the provisions of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Local Boards Act (XIV of 1883). A similar board however was deemed unsuitable to Kumaon, Garhwal, Jhansi and Lalitpur, and those districts were specially exempted from the operation of the Act.* Subsequently in 1894, after the district of Lalitpur had become a

* Notification no. 529, dated 21st November 1883.

subdivision of the Jhansi district, a committee, styled the district committee, was constituted under the Act. This committee comprised as *ex-officio* members the district magistrate, the subdivisional magistrate at Lalitpur, the senior joint or assistant magistrate stationed at Jhansi, the deputy collector in charge of the treasury, the deputy collector stationed at Lalitpur, the civil surgeon, the executive engineer 2nd Allahabad division, and all the tahsildars. The non-official members were nominated, subject to the approval of the Government, by the district magistrate, and it was laid down that not less than one-half should be persons not in Government service. At the same time the members, official and non-official, of the district committee stationed or residing within the limits of the Lalitpur subdivision were constituted a subcommittee of the Jhansi district committee for the subdivision, with the subdivisional magistrate as *ex-officio* chairman, to perform the functions of a district committee subject to the general control of the Jhansi district committee. The United Provinces District Boards Act (III of 1906) consolidated and amended the law dealing with local boards, and a rule under the Act prescribed the number of members to be returned from each tahsil in each district. The districts of Kumaon and Jhansi were again exempted* from the operations of the new Act on the ground that its provisions were unsuited to the circumstances. Very soon after, however, the exemption as regards Jhansi was withdrawn† and the district was brought into line with others of the province from the 1st April 1907. The board as now constituted contains twenty members in all, five being appointed and 15 members, including the chairman, being elected for a term of three years, three representatives each coming from tahsils Jhansi, Mau and Lalitpur, and two each from Garautha, Moth and Mahroni. The sub-committee at Lalitpur consists of seven members, the subdivisional officer and the deputy collector stationed there being *ex-officio* members, and five members being elected—3 from Lalitpur and 2 from Mahroni tahsil. The work of the board is of the usual description and its principal duties comprise the management of the

* Notification no. 687 IX—20, dated 12th, May 1906.

† Notification no. 1449 IX—20, dated 21st August 1906.

educational, medical and veterinary establishments other than those under the direct control of the Government or supported by private bodies; communications including the local roads, ferries, bungalows and the like; and several minor departments such as the administration of cattle pounds, portions of *nazul* land and the maintenance of roadside avenues. The income and expenditure of the board under the main heads since 1891 will be found in the appendix.*

Education. The history of state education in Jhansi begins with the British occupation, but the whole establishment was disorganised by the disturbances of the Mutiny. On the restoration of order, in 1858, eight tahsili schools were opened at Jhansi, Karahra, Pachor, Moth, Bhander, Mau, Pandwaha and Garautha; and 38 village schools were established in the district which, during the year 1859-60, were attended by 2,141 scholars. During that same year three more tahsili schools were opened at Lalitpur, Mahroni and Madaora. In 1861, owing to the transfer of territory to Gwalior, tahsili schools were opened at Barwa Sagar, Chirgaon and Ranipur to take the place of those at Jhansi, Karahra and Pachor, while a school at Erachh was raised to the same class. In 1862, besides the 11 tahsili schools in the district, there were 76 village schools teaching 2,185 boys and 72 indigenous schools open to Government inspection with 923 scholars in Jhansi proper, while at Jhansi the tahsili school was raised to the position of an anglo-vernacular school and an English private school was established at Lalitpur. Later in the same year a middle vernacular school was opened at Lalitpur, and in 1863 another tahsili school was started at Talbehat. In 1866 an attempt was made at female education by opening a girls' school at Lalitpur, and in the same year another anglo-vernacular school was opened at Gursarai under private management. The two anglo-vernacular schools at Jhansi and Lalitpur were in 1867 raised to the position of inferior *zila* schools, teaching up to the middle class, and the district committee endeavoured, but without success, to start a female school at New Jhansi, reporting "that the people have not the slightest sympathy with the movement of female education, which is indeed almost beyond their

* Appendix, table XV.

comprehension." About the same time the state of education appeared generally to be far from satisfactory, and the tahsili schools were reduced to six, namely Bhander, Moth, Gursarai, Mau, Talbehat and Mahroni; while the demand for English education which was reported to have increased resulted in the establishment of another anglo-vernacular private school at Mau. In 1868 the zila schools were reported to be making rapid progress, and the spread of female education in Lalitpur led in 1870 to the establishment of four girls' schools in Mahroni tahsil in addition to that at Lalitpur, the whole number being attended by 116 pupils; while 74 village schools and 50 private schools were teaching in all 2,934 scholars. Female education was again tried in Jhansi and in 1872 seven girls' schools were opened in Jhansi proper, while the number of these institutions rose in Lalitpur to ten, the total number of pupils being 384. In 1875, however, it was found that this scheme for female education was too ambitious, poor attendance being responsible for the closing of six schools, though all the other educational institutions of the district were reported to be doing extremely well. In 1880, after some fluctuations, there were 98 schools for boys open in the district with 2,190 scholars, and 3 girls' schools with 60 pupils. The number of institutions and pupils in each year since 1896 will be found in the appendix,* together with a list of all the schools in the district in 1908.

Macdonnell High School.

The largest educational institution in the district is the Macdonnell High School, the spacious and handsome building of which lies outside the city walls near the cantonments. The school was originally started as a private institution in 1881 by two brothers, named Bihari Lal Mukerji and Shama Charan Mukerji, who were clerks in the executive engineer's office. The number of pupils, which was originally only four, rapidly rose during the next four years; and much difficulty in maintaining the institution was experienced through lack of funds, even though one of its originators, Babu Shama Charan Mukerji, gave his services as a teacher gratis. On the transference of the city and fort of Jhansi to the British in 1886, the institution attracted

* Appendix, table XVIII, *et seq.*

the sympathy of Mr. G. E. Ward, then commissioner of the Jhansi division, who devoted much attention to its advancement. A society and a committee of management were formed, and a set of rules was drawn up to regulate the instruction imparted. Soon, the increase of pupils and the liberal contributions of the public enabled the committee to open classes in which students were prepared for public examinations, and in 1889 the success of the institution was so assured that the English middle school, supported by the Government at Jhansi, was abolished as superfluous, an additional grant-in-aid being given to the high school to enable it to cope with the increased demand for education. Through the liberality of its patrons the committee was able to proceed in 1891 to the construction of the present building on land presented to them for the purpose by Seth Har Lal. The building was designed by Mr. Ward, founded by Mr. F. N. Wright, commissioner of Allahabad, and opened on 4th January 1896 by Sir A. P. (now Lord) MacDonnell, after whom it is named, the total cost being Rs. 45,000, of which Rs. 18,000 were contributed by the Government. The school has 450 boys at present on the roll, no less than 400 of whom are learning English; and it receives a monthly grant-in-aid of Rs. 285 from the Government and of Rs. 100 from the municipal board. Among its most liberal patrons, exclusive of Seth Har Lal, have been the Maharajas of Tikamgarh, Datia and Samthar; Seth Ram Charan Ghansham Das; Rao Gobind Rao Bahadur; the Bhao Sahib of Gursarai; the Raja of Katera; and Mr. Ward himself. Mention may also be made of the valuable services rendered, when the building was being built, by Babu Jadunath Chaudhri of the Public Works department. The only other anglo-vernacular school at present existing in the district is that at Lalitpur. There are middle vernacular schools of the tahsili type at Jhansi, Moth, Gursarai, Mau, Lalitpur, Mahroni and Talbehat, that at Lalitpur being under municipal control. In addition to a number of mission and other private schools, the district board maintains primary schools for boys and gives grants-in-aid to others, while more receive grants from the various municipal boards. The only girls' school in the district maintained by the Government is the model girls' school

at Lalitpur, but there are several others which receive grants-in-aid.

Literacy. Jhansi takes a high place among the districts of the province in regard to the literacy of its inhabitants; for no less than 7·7 per cent. of the males and ·3 per cent. of the females were, at the census of 1901, ascertained to be able to read and write. It is, however, commonly reported that the ambitions of the people do not extend beyond this elementary form of education. There is a noticeable difference between Hindus and Musalmans, for, whereas of the former only 6·0 per cent. of the males and ·14 of the females are literate, among Musalmans the proportions rise to 11·3 and ·64 per cent. respectively. There has been a marked improvement in literacy under all heads during the last twenty years. In 1881 only 5·4 per cent. of the males and ·07 per cent. of the females were able to read and write, while in 1891 the percentages had risen to 7·2 and ·22 per cent. Of those literate in the vernacular only 75 per cent. knew Hindi only and 13 per cent. only Urdu, the remainder being acquainted in some degree with both.

Medical institutions. The medical institutions maintained from local funds comprise several hospitals and dispensaries. Those at Jhansi and Mau were established before the year 1865 and are of the first-class, though the latter was only raised to that position in 1874. Second-class dispensaries exist at Moth and Garautha, the former dating from 1885 and the latter from 1887. In the subdivision the hospital at Lalitpur was opened in 1866 and was the only one in that portion of the district till 1890, when another was built at Mahroni. Besides these, there are police hospitals at Jhansi and Lalitpur and a railway hospital at Jhansi. In 1900 a first-class state dispensary was opened at Parichha at the headworks of the Betwa canal, and a small canal dispensary at Dhukwan in 1905. The Woman's Union Missionary Society of America maintains a private institution at Jhansi, known as the Mary Ackerman Hoyt Hospital, which was opened in 1901, and another at Sipri Bazar opened in 1906, both having been built from funds left by Dr. E. P. Hoyt of New York.

Cattle pounds. The district board derives a considerable income from cattle pounds, the average annual receipts under this head during the

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last five years having been Rs. 11,364. The number of these institutions has varied from time to time, according as the need for them has arisen in different portions of the district, and until the constitution of the district board they were under the direct control of the district magistrate. Those now existing are located at Barwa Sagar, Khailar, Babina, Raksa, Ambabai, Baragaon, Bailaura, Moth, Chirgaon, Erachh, Baghaira, Punchh, Siaori, Uldan, Katera, Ghat Kotra, Ghat Lahchura, Sakrar, Chhurahra, Garautha, Garwai, Gursarai, Pandwaba and Kakarwai in Jhansi proper; and at Talbehat, Bansi, Balabehat, Jakhaura, Jakhlon, Pura Kalan, Pura-Birdha, Dongra Kalan, Pali, Khajuria, Kelwara, Birdha, Mahroni, Kelgawan, Bar, Madaora, Banpur, Patha, Madanpur, Sonjna, Narhat, Girar and Saidpur in the subdivision.

Nazul. The lands classified as *nazul* property in this district cover a considerable area, and consist both of land taken up by the British Government for public purposes and also of properties acquired by inheritance from native Governments. The total area is 4,308 acres, exclusive of that which lies within municipal limits. This acreage is owned by the Government for administrative purposes, the control of most of it being entrusted to the district board, and comprises 3,810 acres of roads, 24 acres covered entirely by buildings and 399 acres of miscellaneous plots, sometimes with buildings attached. In addition to this there are 75 acres covered by forts, most of which lie in the Lalitpur subdivision, including the extensive area occupied by the fort at Talbehat and the ruined fort and palace at Banpur. The miscellaneous plots consist for the most part of encamping-grounds and small unoccupied lands or gardens; these are usually leased out and bring in a small annual income to the district board. The *nazul* property, the management of which is entrusted to the municipal boards of Jhansi, Lalitpur and Mau-Ranipur, consists, besides the roads, of a large number of small properties, which are the sites of public buildings or shops, or are covered by ruined houses. The largest extent of this land is of course within the municipality of Jhansi; but here the only two plots of any large extent are the Narayan Bagh measuring 85 acres and the rejected cantonment land near Palpura, which

covers 46 acres: besides these the most important plots are the Sundarpuri Bagh (17 acres), the Bagh Chhatoriwala near the Unao gate (13 acres), the Bakshiwala Bagh near it (14 acres), and a few other gardens of 5 to 10 acres in extent. At Lalitpur there are 406 acres of *nazul* land, and at Mau-Ranipur there are 134 acres, 108 of which are occupied by the old *parao*. In all cases three-fourths of the income from these plots is credited to the municipal boards and one-fourth to the Government.

CHAPTER V.

HISTORY.

Early history.

Little material remains for constructing the earliest history of the Jhansi district. The tract probably largely consisted of jungle, inhabited by wild tribes owning allegiance to the Maurya emperors and the successive chiefs who each in turn styled themselves lords paramount of northern India. The existence of Gupta inscriptions at Deogarh and other places shows that the tract fell within the dominion of the emperors of that dynasty during the fourth and fifth centuries A.D. The discovery of inscriptions mentioning the Hun chieftain Toramana, at Eran and Gwalior, suggests that the district was overrun by the Huns at the end of the fifth century and remained in their possession till the defeat and death of his son Mihiragula in the middle of the sixth century, when a period of confusion ensued till Harsha Vardhana of Thaneswar established his rule over the whole of northern India.

Jojahoti.

It is during the reign of the last named chief that we get our first historical notice of Bundelkhand. Epigraphic evidence has established the fact that the country now known by that name was anciently called Jejabhukti, the Jejahoti and Jijhoti of travellers from Hiuen Tsang in the seventh to Ibn Batuta in the fourteenth century. This name is evidently represented by the Chinese *Chihchi'to* and the country was visited and described by Hiuen Tsang in 641 or 642 A.D. The pilgrim states that Chihchito lay more than 1,000 *li* to the north-east of Ujjain, and more than 900 *li* to the south of Mahesvarapura. The king, who was a Brahman, was a firm believer in Buddhism and encouraged men of merit, and learned scholars of other lands collected here in numbers. Usually the assumption is made that Khajurahu must have been the unnamed capital referred to by Hiuen Tsang, but, supposing the distances to be estimated from capital to capital, Khajurahu will not suit the indication given by Hiuen Tsang because it lies south-east, not south, from Gwalior (Mahesvarapura), and is too far from Ujjain. All the distances and bearings given by the traveller are faithfully fulfilled by

Eran, and it is probable that this place was the capital of Jejahoti in the seventh century A.D. when Hiuen Tsang visited it.

Tradition almost universally points to the Gonds* as the early colonisers of western Bundelkhand, and to the Parihar and Khati Rajputs as their successors in Jhansi proper. Now the Hunas whose occupation of western Bundelkhand at least is attested by the inscriptions of Toramana are often mentioned in books and inscriptions in connexion with Gurjaras whose name survives as Gujar, a widely distributed caste in north-western India. The early Gurjaras seem to have been foreign immigrants, closely associated with, and possibly allied by blood to, the white Huns. They founded a considerable kingdom in Rajputana, the capital of which was Bhinmal or Srimal, about fifty miles to the north-west of Mount Abu. It has now been definitely established that the Parihar Rajputs are a branch of the Gurjara and Gujar stock. A Mahoba tradition states that a Parihar kingdom preceded that of the Chandels and had its capital at Mau Sahaniya near Nowgong, and it seems probable that this clan established its power over western Bundelkhand early in the eighth century A.D. during the anarchy that ensued after Harsha Vardhana's death in 648 A.D. About 810 A.D. one Nagabhata, the Parihar chief of Bhinmal, defeated the reigning monarch of Kanauj and made that place the headquarters of his kingdom. His successor, Mihira, usually known by the title of Bhoja, enjoyed a long reign of about half a century from 840 to 890 A.D. and beyond question was a very powerful monarch, one of whose chief fortresses was at Gwalior. His son and successor Mahendrapala preserved unimpaired the extensive heritage received from his father, and was succeeded in turn by his sons Bhoja II and Mahipala (circ. 910—40 A.D.). In 916 A.D. the armies of the Rashakutra king, Indra III, captured Kanauj and gave a severe blow to the power of the Parihar dynasty from which it never recovered.

The Parihars.

Meanwhile the kingdom was threatened from another quarter. The exact origin of the Chandels is unknown. The indications, however, are fairly clear that they originated in the

The Chandels.

* Temples attributed to the Gonds are found at Bhadona, near the Shahpur tank at Talbehat, and at Khajra in Banpur. They are usually of gneiss and of very simple structure. Gond and Chandel works are generally much confused.

midst of Gonds near Khajurahu and Maniyagarh early in the ninth century. Their earliest chieftains, known from inscriptions, are Nannuka and Vakpati: the latter was succeeded in turn by his sons Jayasakti and Vijayasakti. The fifth Raja, Rahila, is both known from epigraphical records and from works called after him: he died about 915 A.D., and it may be assumed that the subordination of the Chandels to the throne of Kanauj lasted till the close of his reign. His son, Harshadeva, is recorded to have waged a successful war with the king of Kanauj, possibly in conjunction with the Rashakutra monarch, while Yasovarma or Lakshavarman, the seventh Chandel king, greatly increased the power and confirmed the stability of his dynasty by his conquest and occupation of the fortress of Kalinjar. He is said to have waged successful wars with the Gaudas, Khasas, Kosalas, Kasmiras, Mithilas, Malavas, Chedis and Gurjaras, and however much the boasts of the official panegyrist have to be discounted, the reality of the conquests ascribed to him is to a large extent proved by the fact that Jaipal, king of Bhatindah, called on his son Dhanga for assistance against Sabuktigin in 989 A.D It was probably during his reign that the Chandel power was extended over the whole of Jejahoti; and the same record that chronicles his conquests gives valuable information concerning the extent of Dhanga's empire. The western frontier was marked by the town of Bhasvat on "the river of Malava," which seems to be meant for Bhilsa on the Betwa. His northern boundary was the Jumna which separated his kingdom from that of Kanauj, and on the north-west it touched and perhaps included Gopadri or Gwalior, which Vajradaman wrested from the grasp of the Kanauj sovereign and probably held as a feudatory of Dhanga. Dhanga's contingent shared the disastrous defeat of Jaipal at the hands of Sabuktigin in 989 A.D. and his son Ganda's forces had no better fortune at the battle of Ohind (Waihind) in 1008 A.D.; while the punishment meted out by Ganda to Rajyapala, king of Kanauj, for submitting to Mahmud in 1019, drew down on him the wrath of that monarch, who marched against him the following year. Ganda advanced to oppose him, but fled during the night without striking a blow, leaving immense booty in the hands of the invader. In the following year Mahmud penetrated as far as

Kalinjar itself and accepted Ganda's submission. Little is on record concerning the short reigns of Ganda's successors Vidhyadhara, Vijayapala and Devavarman, which cover the period from about 1025 to 1060 A.D., but it was probably during their reigns that Ganggeya Deva, the powerful prince of Chedi, overran a great portion of northern India, and perhaps even annexed the kingdom of Jejakabhukti to his own dominions. His projects of aggrandizement were proceeded with by his son Karnadeva (circ. 1040 to 1070 A.D.), who joined Bhima, king of Gujerat, in crushing Bhoja, the learned king of Malwa, about 1060 A.D. Kirtivarman, brother of Devavarman, who came to the Chandel throne about 1060 A.D., engaged in protracted hostilities with Karna, and the latter is probably the unnamed enemy from whom Vatsaraja, Kirtivarman's hereditary minister, wrested the fort and district of Deogarh in Lalitpur, where he set up the only epigraphic record that remains of his master. Nothing is known of the short reigns of Sallakshanavarman, his son Jayavarman, or his brother Pirthivarman, but Madanavarman, who reigned 37 years from 1128 to 1165 A.D., was one of the most distinguished members of the dynasty, and both consolidated and extended the dominions of his house.* His successor Paramardi, better known as Parmal, is the best remembered of all the Chandel princes, his memory being kept alive by the poem of Chand Bardai, called the *Mahoba Khand*. He was attacked in 1182 A.D. by Prithviraj, Chauhan prince of Ajmer, and decisively defeated on the field of Sirswagarh† on the Pahuj river. Mahoba was occupied for a time by Pirthviraj, who on his return from his successful foray erected a tablet commemorating his victory at the town of Madanpur in the south of Lalitpur. By the capture of Mahoba the Chandel power was driven eastward, but that of Kalinjar in 1202 A.D., 19 years later, by Qutb-ud-din Aibak put an end for ever to the Chandel domination of the extensive kingdom of Jejakabhukti.

The history of the Chandel dynasty as one of the powers of northern India, and as rulers of the country from the Jumna The Chandel power.

* Madanpur was founded by and named after Madanavarman. In those days it was an important town commanding a pass on the road from Saugor to Gwalior

† Now in native territory west of the Jalaun district.

to the Narbada, ends in 1203 A.D. with the death of Parmal. The Chandels do not appear to have ever been very numerous during the period of their sovereignty, but rather to have formed a ruling caste holding in more or less complete subjection various races, including a crowd of Gonds, Kols, Bhils and other so-called aborigines. Their connection with the first named of these is fairly well established, and it is significant to note that the embankments constructed to form reservoirs for irrigation, which lie scattered about the country, are also attributed to the Gonds. The remains of Chandel occupation in the Jhansi district are found chiefly in the south of Lalitpur, where the ruins of temples at Deogarh, Chandpur and Madanpur testify to the consolidation of their rule. Besides these, traditions of the "Chandeli Raj" are prevalent everywhere, and the characteristic tanks formed by massive embankments of squared stones thrown across drainage lines, often surmounted by small temples of the familiar *Chandeli* design, are scattered all over the district.* The Chandels are credited with fabulous wealth, due, in popular tradition, to the possession of the philosopher's stone (*paras*). Their rule appears to have involved no extinction of other clans whom they found occupying the country, and it is probable that earlier immigrants in Jejakabhukti were left in semi-independent possession of their acquisitions on the condition of paying tribute and supplying men and money to the ruling Chandel chief. At the last census the district contained only 396 representatives of the clan.

The twelfth century.

With the downfall of the Chandel power all order was lost in Bundelkhand. Independent chiefs established themselves on all sides and the victories of Qutb-ud din Aibak, which had thrown all Malwa and Bundelkhand at the feet of the Musalmans, had little lasting effect. In 1231 A.D. Altamsh was obliged to send Nasrat-ud-din with a force from Biana and Gwalior to reduce Kalinjar, who on his return was attacked by one Jahir, Rana of Ijari, and escaped with some difficulty. In 1251† Ulugh

* *E. g.* at Tharo in Garautha, Rura in Mau, and Barwa Sagar in Jhansi. Also at Siron Khurd and Kisalwans in Bansi; near Pali, Kironda and Lidhora in Balabehat, at Budhni Narhat, Daulatpur, Gurha, Sonrai and Markhera in Madaora; and at Banpur and Gugarwara in Banpur. Barwa Sagar, Hasbatpur and other lakes are certainly Chandel.

† E. H. I., vol. II, pp. 351, 368.

Khan, while leading forces again towards Kalinjar, attacked Jahir, routed his forces and took possession of his town Narwar. Among other towns Chanderi belonged to this chieftain, and it seems probable that he held sway over most if not all of Lalitpur. During the reign of the emperor Balban (1265 to 1287 A.D.) there does not appear to have been further trouble in this quarter, but during that of his worthless successor the Hindus appear to have regained their independence. In 1290 and the following years the emperor Jalal-ud-din plundered Ujjain and Malwa, while his nephew Ala-ud-din subsequently ravaged Bundelkhand, pillaged Bhilsa and obtained immense booty at Deogir, returning to Gwalior in 1296. In the confusion caused by the second Mughal invasion of India the Hindus rose again but were ruthlessly crushed by Ala-ud-din and his generals, and after Malik Kafur's march to the Deccan in 1303 the Afghan power was consolidated over the whole of northern India.

The Khangars.

Of the internal history of Bundelkhand during this period we know little. Many of these expeditions must have affected it, and to this period is probably to be ascribed the immigration and settling of various Rajput and other clans. One tradition says that, after the fall of the Chandel power, the Khangars rose and ruled Mahoba in subordination to the Dehli court. The Khangars are now the meanest of the population, but there is good reason to believe that they did extend their power over a considerable tract of country, which comprised within its boundaries the whole of Jhansi proper. Their headquarters were at Kurar or Garh Kurar, situated on a rocky eminence in territory now belonging to the Orchha state, about 20 miles east-north-east of Jhansi. Tradition ascribes eighty years as the duration of their dominion. This accords nearly with dates otherwise ascertained, but no other particulars of their subordinate rule are forthcoming, and there is little reason to suppose that the high-spirited Rajput castes already in the country owed them other than the merest nominal allegiance, or that their power was consolidated more than in name over the extensive tract claimed for it.

The Bundelas.

The downfall of the Khangar Raj was due immediately to the rising power of the Bundelas, and it is to an account of this clan that we must now turn. Popular tradition ascribes the

origin of the name Bundela to Raja Pancham, a descendant of the Gaharwar Raja of Kashi and Kantit. The last king of this line, by name Birbhadr, had five sons, namely Ishri, also called Raj Singh, Hansraj, Mohan, Man and Jagdas or Pancham. During his lifetime Birbhadr divided his kingdom between his children, giving one-half to the four elder and the other half to the youngest, who was his favourite. The division caused great ill feeling, with the result that on the Raja's death in 1170 A.D. Pancham was expelled and his share equally divided among the four brothers. Deprived of his wealth and kingdom, Pancham went to the famous shrine of Bindhachal, five miles west of Mirzapur, and devoted himself to the severest asceticism in honour of Durga. After nine days of austerities he resolved to offer his head as a sacrifice to the goddess, but before he consummated his resolve the goddess cried: "Thou wilt enjoy the happiness of a king." Receiving no answer to his request that the goddess would give him a visible sign, Pancham resumed his religious chants and tried to cut his throat with his sword, but the goddess thereupon appeared and told him that he would become a raja and that his descendants would rule over Central India. In commemoration of the drop *(bund)* of blood that fell from his self-inflicted wound, she told him that his descendants would be called Bundelas. Pancham collected a force, defeated his brothers, seized the kingdom and made Benares his eastern capital. In 1214 he was succeeded by his son Bir, called *Bundela* in compliance with the command of the goddess, who extended his sway over several neighbouring kingdoms. In 1231 he is said to have subdued Kalpi and Mahoni, and after defeating Bhojavarman, Chandel, to have annexed Kalinjar and thence extended his conquests to Rewa, Oudh and the Doab.

On the truth of these assertions, all of which appear to be based on the *Bundel Charitr*, no reliance can be placed. About the year 1090 A.D. a raja of the Gaharwar clan named Chandradeva seized Kanauj and established his authority over Benares and Ajodhya. The assertion that Raja Pancham made Benares "his eastern capital" suggests that a state was founded at that place which was semi-independent of Kanauj, and an independent dynasty founded by him may have extended its dominions

westward. His son Raja Bir is said to have attacked the dominions of Satar Khan, Afghan, "in the north-west" and to have gained a victory over him, after a well-contested fight. Here we seem to touch historical fact. Before 1190 A.D. Shabab-ud-din Ghori had become undisputed master of the Punjab and the dread inspired by the victorious Musalman army constrained the jarring states of northern India to lay aside their quarrels and combine for a moment against the foreign foe. In 1191 A.D. Prithviraj succeeded in inflicting a severe defeat on the invaders at Talawari between Thanesar and Karnal, which forced them to retire beyond the Indus. A year later, in 1192 A.D., the Sultan, having returned with a fresh force, again encountered on the same field Prithviraj, who was at the head of an immense host, swollen by contingents from numerous confederate princes. The Hindus were defeated, Prithviraj was taken prisoner and executed in cold blood, and the wretched inhabitants of his capital, Ajmer, were either put to the sword or sold into slavery. In 1193 A.D. both Dehli and Kanauj fell, and Benares, the holy citadel of Hinduism, in the same year became the prize of the victors. The surrender of Gwalior in 1196 A.D., the capture of Anhilwara in 1197, the capitulation of Kalinjar in 1203, and the conquest of Oudh, Behar and Bengal by Bakhtiar Khilji in 1204 brought the whole of northern India into subjection to the Musalmans and scattered the Rajput clans far and wide. An important consequence of the capture of Kanauj was the migration of the bulk of the Gaharwar clan to the deserts of Marwar in Rajputana. In this migration, or independently of it but about the same time, the Bundelas probably took part,*

* The true origin of the Bundelas, like that of most of the Rajput clans, is lost in obscurity, and the account given in the text cannot claim to be more than that of the probable course of events. The tradition that Bir Bundela first subdued Kalpi and Mahoni and then annexed Kalinjar and so on through Rewah, Oudh and the Doab; or its variant, that he first conquered Kalinjar, then Kalpi and finally settled at Mahoni, is manifestly devoid of historical truth in the light of the facts previously stated; for during the thirteenth century Kalinjar was certainly held by the Chandels, while Bundelkhand was several times overrun by the Musalmans, who are little likely to have lost their hold on so important a place at Kalpi. One suggestion, however, has been made which, though not by any means substantiating the exaggerations of the bards, offers at least an explanation of how the Bundelas came so early to be credited with a dominion

and settled at Mahoni† in 1256 under Arjunpal, grandson of Bir Bundela, who is said to have married a daughter of the "Toar of Gwalior." His son Sohanpal is reported to have subdued Kutharagarh ‡ and to have raised the flag of victory long over Jaitra. ‡ The next step in the progress of the clan was the ousting of the Khangars § by the capture of the fort of Kurar, the date of which is given as *samvat* 1345 or 1288 A.D. This was brought about as follows. Birbal, the eldest son of Arjunpal, who succeeded his father, is said to have given only a few villages to Sohanpal, his brother. The latter, who had contracted an alliance with the Dhandera clan of Ganeskhera,|| dissatisfied with his share of the inheritance, went to Naga, the Khangar Raja of Kurar, in search of help. Naga promised to aid him on condition that he would eat, drink and intermarry

nearly as extensive as that which they held later on. This is that the Gaharwars were associated with the Bhars, who are known from other evidence to have spread themselves about this time over an extensive tract of country, including a large portion of Bundelkhand. The Bundelas are not recognised as Rajputs of pure blood: at the same time their connection with the Gaharwars is not disputed, and the story of the origin of their name, as given in the text after the bards, is quite in keeping with the practice of inventing genealogies to cover ancestral *mésalliances*, when the descendants had afterwards risen to fame. The account given by the author of the *Hadikat'l akalim* of the origin of the name is philologically improbable. Probably the whole significance of the story is that a large body of immigrants entered Bundelkhand, while the names of the places they conquered are merely the prominent landmarks in the route they took. It is unlikely that people who had accomplished the difficult task of conquering Kalinjar and Kalpi would settle down in an out-of-the-way place like Mahoni. Another suggestion of their origin is that the Bundelas are the descendants of a marriage between a Gaharwar and a Khangar.

† The fact that this place is sometimes coupled with Mau and called Mau Mahoni points to the fact that the Mau in tahsil Kunch of the Jalaun district on the Pahuj river must be meant. But there is another Mahona 8 miles from Gopalpur, now in Gwalior territory, which may be the place indicated. It lies in 26° 17′ and 79° 2′.

‡ These places are untraceable, but Jaitra appears to be the same as Jaitpura and Kutharagarh to be Kulhara of the atlas sheet, both in Gwalior territory near Mahona. The latter is almost certainly not Katera (garh) in the south of Mau tahsil.

§ Judging from the present-day distribution of the Khangars, the Bundelas at Mahoni were contiguous to, if not actually within, the limits of the Khangar dominions.

|| In an island of Orchha, 15 miles west of Jhansi.

with him. This suggestion so enraged Sohanpal that he prepared to leave the Khangar's court forthwith, when his movements were precipitated by the intelligence that Naga contemplated forcibly detaining him and compelling him to accede to his proposals. Sohanpal fled to one Mukatman Chauhan, who was a descendant of Dhandera Deva,* and commanded 4,000 men on behalf of the Raja. Mukatman, however, refused to help and would only promise to remain neutral. After this Sohanpal solicited aid successively from the Salingars, Chauhans and Kachhwahas, but without success. A Panwar Rajput, however, named Panpal, Jagirdar of Karhara,† offered assistance, and the two conspired to remove Naga by stratagem from his kingdom, which was worth 13 *lakhs*. It was agreed that Sohanpal should go to Kurar, pretend to accept Naga's conditions of intermarriage, and invite the raja and his relatives to his house. The plot was carried out as agreed upon; and when Raja Naga, with his brothers and ministers, came to Sohanpal's house, they were treacherously slaughtered by the confederates and their retainers. In this way Sohanpal became Raja of Kurar and obtained possession of all the Khangar dominions: he appointed Panpal and Mukatman his ministers, and gave the former his daughter in marriage with the village of Itaura as dowry, and his younger brother Dayapal a *jagir* worth one *lakh*.

The fourteenth and fifteenth centuries are almost a blank. The revolts that took place in the latter half of the reign of Ala-ud-din were gradually quelled, but no explicit mention is made by the historians of Bundelkhand. His cruelties and exorbitant taxes, however, finally brought ruin and disaster, and insurrections broke out on all sides. During the reign of Firoz Shah some order was restored, for in 1376 A.D. we read‡ that "the frontiers of the empire were secured by placing them under the charge of great and trusty *amirs*. Thus on the side of Hindostan, on the Bengal frontier, the feof *(ikta')* of Karra and Mahoba and the *shikk* of Dalamau were placed under the charge of *Malik-us-Sharq* Mardan Daulat," while that of Kalpi remained undisturbed. The northern portion of the district unquestionably fell within the

* That is, he had intermarried with Dhundera Rajputs.

† The same as Karahra in Gwalior, 27 miles west of Jhansi.

‡ E. H. I. IV, p. 13. The only Musalman building of note at Lalitpur, the Bansa, bears the name of Firoz Shah and the date *samvat* 1415 or A.D. 1345.

latter's jurisdiction. In the confusion which ensued after Timur's invasion of India the various feofs of the empire remained securely in the hands of the *amirs*, and we find Mahmud Khan, son of Malikzada Firoz, in possession of the *shikk* of Kalpi and Mahoba.*

Progress of the Bundelas. The period was one of quiet consolidation of power for the Bundelas. Sohanpal died in 1299 A.D. and was succeeded by his son, Sahjendra. The latter died in 1326 and was succeeded by Nanak Deva, who in turn was succeeded in 1360 by his son Prithviraj. This chief is said to have framed good laws for his subjects and to have reduced his kinsmen, the descendants of Arjunpal's sons Birbal and Dayapal, to obedience. This action of his probably means that he was strong enough to arrest that fatal tendency among the Bundelas to split up into a number of petty states. Prithviraj had a son named Ram Chand, but whether he was ever chief of the Bundelas or not is uncertain. At any rate the throne descended about 1400 A.D. to Mednipal, son of Ram Chand, and from him to Arjun Deva about 1443. When Malkhan succeeded his father Arjun Deva in 1475 A.D. the Bundelas had become a power in the land, but how far their dominion extended at this time it is impossible to say. Like other chieftains, Malkhan or his ancestors had probably taken the opportunity of greatly strengthening their power over a large tract of country which, if it included the old Khangar Raj, must have stretched from the Pahuj river across to Mahoba. The southern part of the district probably was in the hands of Raja Sanka, chief of Chitor, who had before the beginning of the sixteenth century captured both Bhilsa and Chanderi.† In 1482 Malkhan is said to have been strong enough to oppose Bahlol Lodi, but his son Rudr Pratap, who succeeded him, is reported to have annexed a portion of the kingdom of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi, yielding 1¼ *crors*. And it is related that when Babar had reduced Chanderi ‡ he only succeeded in recovering Kalpi from Rudr Pratap, and appointed him to rule the rest of the kingdom. The only fact that can be gleaned from the brief notices which relate to this period is that the Bundela chiefs

* E. H. I., IV., p. 37. | † E. H. I., VI., p. 261.

‡ Raja Sanka had obtained Chanderi during the confusion that prevailed in the reign of Ibrahim Lodi. He bestowed it on one Medini Rao, "a pagan of great consequence", *vide* E. H. I., IV, 275; J. A. S. B., LXXI, Pt. I, 1902.

Malkhan and Rudr Pratap, like other Hindu chiefs, had taken advantage of the wars that ensued between the rival claimants to the throne of Dehli and their various *amirs* to carve out for themselves an extensive principality, the possession of which they were, at the beginning of the sixteenth century, prepared and strong enough to contest with any one.

Foundation of Orchha.

Raja Rudr Pratap, who was the eldest son of Malkhan's younger queen, succeeded his father in 1507 A.D., his other brothers being apportioned *jagirs* for their support, Bir Chand, the son of the elder Rani, receiving the estate of Beona.* On May 1st 1531 Rudr Pratap founded the city of Orchha and "made it a military station." This date marks an epoch-making event in the history of Bundelkhand, and from it is certainly to be calculated the period during which Bundela rule spread throughout both portions of the district. Rudr Pratap was killed in a contest with a tiger in the same year, and was succeeded by his son, Bharti Chand, who is sometimes called the founder of Orchha, and who was assisted in the administration by his brother, Madhukar Sah: the other sons were appeased with various *jagirs*. In this division of the inheritance the Bundela kingdom appears to have been split into two portions; for Rao Udiajit, the third son of Rudr Pratap, is reported to have received Mahewa,† by which is apparently meant all the Bundela possessions east of the Dhasan. During the reign of Bharti Chand the emperor Sher Shah made an expedition into Bundelkhand, in the course of which he experienced considerable opposition from the Bundelas.‡ The emperor passed on to Kalinjar, which he besieged and took in 1545 A.D., but lost his life from an accidentally exploded shell under the walls of the historic fortress. And during the ensuing confusion of Humayun's invasion the Bundela power was extended over the whole tract of country between the Sindh

* Tahsil Kunch, district Jalaun. His descendants still hold it.

† The Gazetteer and Diwan Mazbut Singh say Mahoba, but Mahewa which rests on the authority of Shiam Lal is probably right. It is near Mau in Chhatarpur.

‡ E. H. I., IV, 407, where Ahmad Yadgar is quoted as saying that the reason for the expedition was that Bir Singh Deo Bundela, who had been summoned to court, had fled and taken refuge with the Raja of Kalinjar, who refused to give him up; *vide* also J. A. S. B., LXXI, Pt. I, 1902. The Bundelas certainly never took Kalinjar in Bharti Chand's reign.

and Kon rivers south of a line drawn from Gwalior to Kalinjar. On the south-west their dominions were bounded by the kingdom of Malwa, and on the south merged, with no definite dividing lines, in the wild region known as Gondwana.

The reign of Akbar.

The Hindu chroniclers assert that during the early years of Akbar's reign several sanguinary battles took place between the Musalman forces and the Bundelas for the supremacy of the country which the latter had usurped. An engagement is alleged to have taken place at Baroni* against the Muhammadans under Niamat Khan, at Bhanrer† against Ali Quli Khan, and at Cholra‡ against Jam Quli Khan, the imperial forces in all cases being defeated. No mention, however, of these battles is made by the Muhammadan historians, and there seems to be little reason to doubt that, in the systematic distribution into *subahs* and *sarkars* undertaken by the Dehli monarch, the whole of Bundelkhand was reckoned in the imperial dominions and paid its contributions to the imperial exchequer.§ The northern

* In Datia, 5 miles west of Datia town.

† In Gwalior, 19 miles E. N.-E. of Datia town.

‡ Said to be in Datia: there is one Chelra some 15 miles east-south-east of Moth.

§ The distribution of this portion of the country over *mahals* is extremely hard to trace owing to the duplication and confusion of names. Jhansi proper fell within Erachh, Bhander, Bijpur or Bhijpur (78° 30′, 25° 10′), Pandor (Pandwaha) and Jhalra (in Orchha 79° 7′ and 25° 2′). The last named comprised 4 *mahals*, paid 11,787,901 *dams* revenue and contributed 4,000 cavalry, 15,000 infantry and 70 elephants to the army. No cultivated area is given in the *Ain-i-Akbari*, but the prevailing caste was that of Rajputs. This *mahal* obviously comprised most of the northern portion of the present Orchha state,. Erachh had an area of 6,25,597 *bighas* with a revenue of 2,92,2436 *dams* and must have extended over portions of Jalaun and Samthar. Bhander had an area of 257,043 *bighas* and paid 2,533,449 *dams* revenue. The chief residents of both these places were Kayasths and Afghans. Bijpur had an area of 30,635 and Pandor of only 8,951 *bighas*, their respective revenues being 1,991,097 and 464,111 *dams*. The fact, that Parihars occupied the latter makes its identification almost certain. In Lalitpur, "Thanwarah Lalitpur, etc., 3 mahals" are mentioned with an area of only 10,977 acres; there is a village called Thanwarah, 9 miles north-west of Lalitpur, with some Muhammedan remains; and possibly another *mahal* is concealed under the name Rodahi which is Dudhai. These were in the *sarkar* of Chanderi. The area of Balabehat is not given, and that of Dhamoni only amounted to 13,007 *bighas*. The indications go to show that the distribution of the country in Akbar's time was much the same as later, *viz.*, that Jhansi proper and Orchha belonged to Erachh, most of Lalitpur to Chanderi, and the south-eastern corner to Dhamoni and so to Saugor. How far the *sarkar* of Erachh extended to the south or south-east cannot be determined, but it probably touched the large straggling *sarkar* of Kanauj or Garha Mandla in the *subah* of Malwa; this perhaps accounts for the fact that Sadiq Khan, who was governor of Garha, was sent against Madhukar Sah.

portion of the district, including Orchha, fell within the *sarkar* of Erachh and the *subah* of Agra, while the bulk of Lalitpur appears to have belonged to the *sarkar* of Chanderi in the *subah* of Malwa. The extreme southern part of the subdivision was comprised in the *parganas* of Balabohat and Dhamoni, appertaining to the *sarkar* of Raisin, and it may be assumed that either the Narain river or the line of the *ghats* was the dividing line between the two *sarkars*. In the year 1574 Madhukar Sah rebelled and overran the country in the direction of Sironj and Gwalior. He was attacked by Saiyid Muhammad Bara,* who drove him back to his own dominions, but he was certainly not subdued and remained in open revolt. In 1576 A.D.† "This *zamindar* having been guilty of some overt acts, Sadiq Khan was sent with a considerable force to induce him by kind words to return to his allegiance or to compel him, if necessary." The first opposition was encountered at Karahra,‡ where the Panwar governor of the fort had prepared for resistance. Capturing the place, the royal forces marched towards Orchha, systematically cutting down the jungle on the way, and engaged the enemy on the banks of the Betwa river. After a severe engagement the Bundelas were defeated and put to flight, Horal Deo, the Raja's eldest son, being among the slain, and Orchha was occupied. In accordance with his usual policy of leniency and conciliation, Akbar reinstated Madhukar Sah in his dominions. In 1591 A.D. Madhukar Sah again overran the country in the direction of Sironj and Gwalior. In that year prince Shah Murad,§ who had been been appointed to the government of Malwa arrived at Gwalior on his way to the headquarters of his *subah*, and finding the rebellious raja in possession of the parganas of Gwalior "resolved to chastise him." Madhukar Sah assembled his forces|| to resist him, but was defeated in battle and forced to fly into the jungles and hills ¶ All his territories were

* *Alias* Mahmud Barha. | † E. H. I., Vol. VI, 58.

‡ In Gwalior, 27 miles west of Jhansi.

§ The following account rests on the authority of Nizamuddin Ahmad, and differs considerably from the romantic version of Diwan Mazbut Singh in J. A. S. B. LXXI, 1902.

|| According to Budaoni this took place in the vicinity of Narwar.

¶ Where he is said to have died a natural death, apparently also on the authority of Budaoni.

ravaged, and then his son Ram Chandar,* who was his eldest son and representative, came humbly to beg for mercy and to be admitted a subject of the imperial throne. He waited on the prince and presented a large tribute, and the prince sent him to the emperor, who, when he arrived, granted him a free pardon, bestowing on him the kingdom of his father. The other sons of Madhukar Sah were apportioned various *jagirs*, as usual, for their support, and in the distribution Bir Singh Deo, the youngest, received Baroni.† Raja Ram Sah appears to have remained all his reign a loyal servant of the throne, while his younger brother Bir Singh Deo spent his time in plundering expeditions or revolt, sometimes alone and sometimes assisted by his other brothers. An extensive campaign towards the end of the century is said to have brought into his hands Bhander, Karahra and Erachh; but he was soon ousted from his acquisitions by the imperial generals, aided by Ram Sah, only to repossess himself of them as soon as the hostile forces had withdrawn. Whether he made the first advances because he found himself in danger at this time, or was himself in the first instance approached by prince Salim ‡ cannot with accuracy now be determined, but his desperate character commended him to the future emperor as a likely tool to carry out his design of getting rid of Akbar's favourite minister Abul Fazl, whom the prince regarded as responsible for the estrangement between himself and his father. At any rate, instigated by the prince, Bir Singh Deo attacked and murdered the celebrated Sheikh at Sarai Barar, between Narwar and Antri, on 11th August 1602.§ When Akbar heard of the dastardly deed, his grief and rage knew no bounds. Immediate orders were issued for the pursuit and punishment of the assassin. The Rairayan, who was in

* *Alias* Ram Sah.

† Near Datia. The other *jagirs* were: to Dulhar Rao, Sipri; to Ratan Sen, Ghor Jhamar (27 miles S.-E. of Saugor); to Indrajit, Nadkachuwa (5 miles N.-E. of Pachor), to Partap Rao, Kunch, to Har Singh, Bhasneh (in Garautha, 36 miles E. and N.-E. of Jhansi).

‡ The Memoirs of the Emperor Jahangir suggest the second, and are most likely the truer version. E. H. I., VI, 289.

§ E. H. I., VI, 107. The occurrence is described at length, from personal knowledge, by Asad Beg. E. H. I., VI, 151 *et seq.* The actual swords used by Bir Singh Deo and Abul Fazl are still in the possession of the Maharaja of Tikamgarh.

vicinity of Antri at the time, with a large force, at once started off. He forced Bir Singh Deo to retire from Bhander* and then shut him up in Erachh,† which was closely invested. Owing to some culpable negligence, however, Bir Singh Deo and his handful of desperadoes were allowed to escape by night right through the Rairayan's elephant stable yard. The pursuit was now taken up by Sheikh Abdur Rahman and Abdullah Khan, who were powerfully reinforced. Bir Singh was driven to Orchha,‡ which was again captured, but escaped to the jungles once more, after poisoning all the wells and rendering the position untenable for the royal forces. At last the hunted fugitive was rendered safe from further pursuit by the death of Akbar in 1604 A.D.

Bir Singh Deo becomes Raja of Orchha.

On the succession of Jahangir in 1605 Bir Singh Deo together with Bharat Sah, Ram Sah and Indarjit was summoned to Dehli. A royal *sanad* with the title of Maharaja was conferred on Bir Singh Deo, and Ram Sah was detained at court. In this way the former became master of all the Bundela possessions, a position which was naturally resented by the latter, who returned to Orchha and prepared to contest the inheritance, aided by his grandson Bharat Sah. By the emperor's orders Abdullah Khan from Kalpi and other *amirs* were sent to Bir Singh Deo's assistance, and after some indecisive fighting near Orchha negotiations were opened between Ram Sah and Abdullah Khan. The latter treacherously seized the Bundela chief and sent him under escort to Dehli, where he was detained by Jahangir till 1608 A.D. Meanwhile his grandson Bharat Sah took the lead in the intertribal feud, and in spite of Bir Singh Deo's efforts succeeded in capturing Dhamoni in 1607 A.D. In the following year, in order to bring about peace and perhaps as a counterpoise to Bir Singh Deo, the emperor released Ram Sah and appointed him Raja of Bar§ and ruler of a tract of country with a revenue of three *lakhs*, which practically comprised the whole of the present subdivision of Lalitpur.

Accession of Jujhar Singh.

The history of the district now becomes practically that of two separate states, and must be treated separately. Towards the

* E. H. I., VI, 108. † *Ibid* and also p. 160.

‡ E. H. I., VI, 113.

§ In Lalitpur, pargana Banpur, 17 miles N.-E. of Lalitpur.

end of the reign of Jahangir, Bir Singh Deo* is said to have become disaffected and to have oppressed all the *zamindars* in his neighbourhood. The reasons for the ill feeling are unknown, but the imperial hold on the turbulent chieftain was retained by the detention of his son, Jujhar Singh, at court. Ultimately Bir Singh Deo predeceased the emperor by a few months,† and immediately on the accession of Shahjahan in 1628 Jujhar left the court, proceeded to Orchha and set about preparations for rebellion. A force was consequently sent against him under Muhabbat Khan, Khan Khanan, and the imperial forces converged on Orchha, while Abdullah Khan captured the fortress of Erachh. Jujhar Singh was besieged in Orchha, and, finding no means of escape, surrendered and made his submission.‡ He was accordingly pardoned and sent on service to the Deccan.§ Shortly afterwards he returned to Orchha, leaving his son Bikramajit, also called Jagatraj, and his contingent of men with Muhabbat Khan, and made an attack on Bim Narain, *zamindar* of Garha, and induced him to surrender the fort of Chauragarh,|| which in violation of his agreement he proceeded to occupy, taking possession at the same time of all the money and valuables it contained. Bim Narain himself was put to death, but his son repaired to court and complained. A *farman* was accordingly sent to Jujhar Singh charging him with the murder of Bim Narain, and with taking possession of Garha without the emperor's authority, and directing him to surrender the territory to the officers of the crown, or else to give up the *jagirs* he held in his own country, and to send to court ten *lakhs* of rupees in cash out of the money he had taken from Bim Narain. Jujhar Singh, getting notice of this *farman* from his agents before it arrived, and being resolved to resist, directed his son Bikramajit to escape with his troops from Balaghat, whither he had gone with Khandauran, and to come to his assistance.

* Bir Singh Deo built the palace at Datia, and the forts of Jhansi and Dhamoni. His kingdom is said to have comprised 81 parganas and 12,500 villages. He certainly ruled an extensive tract of country, including the whole of Jhansi proper. He is usually called Bar Singh or Nar Singh by the Muhammadan historians.

† E. H. I., VII, 7.

‡ *Ibid.*

§ E. H. I., VII, 47 *et seq.*

|| 70 miles west of Jabalpur.

Bikramajit acted accordingly, but was attacked at Ashta* by Khan Zaman, *nazim* of the Payinghat, and lost a large number of his men, besides being himself wounded. Meanwhile an army of 20,000 men was collected under the command of prince Aurangzeb. The various contingents united at Bhander, and advanced on Orchha, where Jujhar Singh had 5,000 horse and 10,000 foot. The imperial forces, continually harassed in the dense jungles by the Bundelas, pushed on to Kahmarwali,† two miles from Orchha, before their advance was contested. Defeat in a sharp engagement here so alarmed Jujhar Singh that he determined to escape with all his family to Dhamoni, leaving only a small garrison in Orchha, which a few days later capitulated. The rebel was next pursued to Dhamoni, which he also evacuated, after blowing up all the buildings round it. The garrison left behind to hold it made a stout resistance, and under cover of an agreement to capitulate, were able to make their way out and hide in the jungles. Jujhar Singh then proceeded to Chauragarh, but on hearing of the approach of the imperial forces he again fled without offering any opposition. After a long and exciting chase in the inhospitable wilds of Gondwana, almost as far as Golkonda, during which the Musalman army pressed him closely and cut off most of his followers, he and his son were put to death with great cruelty by the wild hillmen of those tracts. Their heads were cut off, sent to court, and fixed up as a warning to others over the gate of Sehur. Meanwhile the emperor himself proceeded to Orchha, where the news was brought to him of the capture of the fort of Jhansi.‡

Pahar Singh.

An interregnum now seems to have ensued for several years, during which no one was set up on the throne of Orchha till the kingdom, greatly diminished in extent,§ was conferred on Pahar Singh, the second son of Bir Singh Deo and brother of Jujhar Singh. The interval, however, was filled in part by a desultory guerilla warfare, carried on by the famous Champat Rai. This

* 60 miles S.-W. of Bhopal.

† Probably the same as Kumharra, half way between Jhansi and Orchha.

‡ It appears to have remained in the power of the Musalmans from this time onwards till 1742 A.D.

§ Large *jajirs*, amounting in each case to one *lakh*, were distributed among the other sons of Bir Singh Deo.

bold leader was the eldest son of Bhagwant Rai, the grandson of Rao Udiajit, third son of Raja Rudr Pratap, who had obtained Mahewa in *jagir*. He is said to have greatly distinguished himself at the siege of Orchha, under Jujhar Singh, and, when the imperial army had been disbanded after that chieftain's defeat, to have made himself master of all the country round Orchha. Here he was again attacked about 1633 by the Dehli forces, but succeeded in effecting his escape and continuing his ravages. The latter, however, do not concern the Jhansi district, which for the remainder of this century remained partly in the hands of the Mughals, partly in those of the Bundela chiefs of Orchha or their relations in allegiance to the Dehli throne.

The Chanderi kingdom

It will be convenient at this point to take up the history of the Bar *jagir* which, as has been seen, included the Lalitpur subdivision. Ram Sah, first Raja of Bar, died in 1612 A.D. and was succeeded by his grandson, Bharat Sah. Four years later, in 1616, that chieftain stormed the fortress of Chanderi, and expelled one Goda Ram, who held it on behalf of one of the Muhammadan kings of the Deccan. This expedition met with the approval of Shahjahan, who awarded Bharat Sah a *sanad* conferring on him the *jagir* of Chanderi, which now became the capital of a new Bundela state. In 1618 Bharat Sah built the fort at Talbehat and divided his kingdom into four parts, namely Dudhai, Haraspur,* Golakot† and Kangarh,‡ giving various shares to his brothers. In 1646 he was succeeded by his son Debi Singh, who in 1665 accompanied an expedition to Kabul which ended disastrously. His eldest son, Udebhan, however, greatly distinguished himself in the field, and the emperor being pleased with his services conferred on his father an extensive tract of territory now in the Saugor district or in independant territory beyond, estimated to yield a revenue of Rs. 24,00,000. Debi Singh remained in possession of the Chanderi state till 1717 A.D., when he died at the ripe age of 87 years.

Chhatarsal.

While peace and security reigned west of the Dhasan, the period was disturbed to the east of that river by the depredations of Chhatarsal, the famous son of Champat Rai. After a few

* Pargana Bansi 16 miles N. of Lalitpur.

† Deserted fort lying east of Isagarh in Gwalior.

‡ On the Betwa in Gwalior, 23 miles S. W. of Lalitpur.

years, spent in the service of Nirpat Jai Singh and Nawab Bahadur Khan, during which he set himself to gain experience in war, he determined to throw off his allegiance to Dehli and to carve out a kingdom for himself. The proximate cause of his resentment is said to have been the slighting of his services at the siege of Deogarh, but what finally determined him to proclaim his independence is represented by the Hindu chroniclers to have been the order issued by Aurangzeb to destroy the Hindu temples at Orchha and to prevent the performance of religious worship. Practically unmolested, he overran the country towards Panna, and then proceeded to the south, where the extensive tract of country which was then ruled by Musalman *subahdars* from Dhamoni* fell into his hands. The long absence of Aurangzeb in the Deccan, and the disorganisation which ensued thereon, favoured his enterprise, till, emboldened by his successes, he even plundered some of the imperial caravans on their way to Aurangzeb's camp and annexed some parganas to the south belonging to his kinsman of Chanderi. Successive commanders were sent against him, but without success; Kalinjar was taken about 1700 A.D. and the bulk of the Banda and Hamirpur districts fell into his hands. In 1703 A.D. he proceeded west of the Dhasan and overran the Jhansi and Jalaun districts, burning Erachh and plundering Kalpi. Finally in 1708 A.D. on the accession of Bahadur Shah, through the good offices of the Khan Khanan, he was invited to court, and confirmed in all the possessions which he had won: these were estimated to yield one million sterling.

Campaigns of Muhammad Khan Bangash.

On the death of Bahadur Shah, in 1712 A.D., the emperor Farrukhsiyar conferred the parganas of Erachh, Bhander and other places in Bundelkhand on Muhammad Khan Bangash, better known as the Bangash Nawab of Farrukhabad. In 1719 Kalpi was again plundered by Chhatarsal and his Bundelas. Daler Khan, the Nawab's *chela*, was sent against them, and drove them out, re-establishing the Nawab's authority: but he was himself killed at Maudaha† in 1721 A.D., and the Bundelas again overran the district. In the same year the Nawab was

* With Dhamoni went pargana Madaora in the Lalitpur subdivision.

† In Hamirpur district.

appointed *subahdar* of Allahabad, but it was not till 1725 A.D. that he was able himself to proceed to his *subah* and restore order. An account of the protracted campaign undertaken during the years 1726 to 1729 does not properly belong to the history of this district; suffice it to say that with the capitulation of Jaitpur in August 1729 an end was put for ever to the Musalman power in eastern Bundelkhand.

First appearance of the Marathas. The Bundela success had not been achieved singlehanded: in fact the Nawab had recovered all his power in Bundelkhand, and reduced the enemy to terms. An armistice had been called while matters relating to a final settlement were being referred to Dehli, and the interval had been basely used by the Bundelas to open negotiations with the Marathas, whose sudden appearance in March 1729 turned the course of the Nawab's victory into defeat. Baji Rao, son of Visvanath Balaji, was at this time second officer of the state of Poona. In 1725 he inaugurated his schemes for Maratha supremacy by levying the *chauth* and *sardesmukhi* in Gujerat, and by the end of 1728 had advanced as far as Malwa, where he attacked and defeated the governor, Raja Girdhar, in an action fought at Tala near Dhar. After Muhammad Khan Bangash's retirement from Jaitpur the *subah* of Malwa was conferred on him by *sanad* dated September 19th, 1730, and assisted by contingents from the Rajas of Chanderi, Orchha and other chiefs and *faujdars*, the Nawab carried on an indecisive campaign in Malwa for two years. Finding the condition of the *subah* hopeless he retired to Akbarabad in 1732.

Advance of the Marathas. The Maratha inroads now became more serious. Gobind Rao* seized Gadola, Malthon, Khemlasa and Rahatgarh now in the Saugor district, and in 1735 Malhar Rao Holkar defeated Durjan Singh, Raja of Chanderi, and annexed Bhilsa, Sironj, Udepur and Basoda,† securing his possessions by the erection

* Also known as Gobind Pandit and Gobind Bundela. The latter name was given him because he nominally became the *chela* of Chhatarsal, when that chieftain bequeathed to him, about 1734, one-third of his possessions. The latter included most of the present Jalaun district, of which he was first *subahdar* He was killed at the third battle of Panipat in 1761 A.D. After his death Rao Dinkar Ana was sent to manage this portion of the Maratha possessions, and received Gursarai in *jagir*.

† These places are now for the most part in independent territory south-west of the Saugor district.

of the fort of Malhargarh. That same year the Marathas advanced under the same leader towards the Jumna, but were met near Jhansi by Aghota Singh, Raja of Orchha, and the Raja of Datia, and defeated after a sanguinary battle in which both sides lost heavily. Two months after this battle Aghota Singh died, leaving the throne of Orchha to Prithvi Singh. Rapid disorganisation now set in. Other Bundela chieftains, sometimes with Maratha aid, declared their independence, while Raja Indargir Gosain, who was governor of the fort of Jhansi, revolted and set up a small principality for himself in Moth. In 1742 A.D. after the accession of Balaji Baji Rao to the Poona throne, an expedition was sent under Naru Shankar against Orchha, which met with but slight resistance. The Raja submitted, and his territories were partitioned between himself and the Marathas. The revenue of the Orchha state is said at that time to have amounted to Rs. 24,54,464, including five and three-quarter *lakhs* of estimated revenue from *jagir* and service lands which was not collected. Of the remaining sum of Rs. 18,80,000, Rs. 14,30,000 were derived from the Raja's hereditary possessions and Rs. 4,50,000 from the "districts of Erachh and Karahra, which were held in farm from the emperor of Dehli." After the sequestration of territory yielding a revenue of Rs. 8,05,336 in *jagirs*, for the maintenance of Jhansi fort, for Naru Shankar himself and other purposes, Rs. 9,90,991 fell to the share of the Marathas and the remainder to the Bundelas.

Foundation of the Jhansi state.

The territory thus divided comprised the present Orchha or Tehri state; pargana Pachor and part of Karahra which were ceded to Sindhia in 1861; and the present district of Jhansi, with the exception of some villages and the Gursarai *jagir*. Naru Shankar greatly enlarged the fort and founded the city of Jhansi, subsequently adding to his possessions by the annexation of pargana Duboh, which belonged to the Datia state. Naru Shankar was recalled to Poona in 1757 A.D. and was succeeded by Madhoji Gobind. The office of *subahdar* next devolved on Babu Rao Kanhai Rai, but in 1761 A.D. Naru Shankar returned and was reinstated in his office. He was followed by Vishwas Rao Lachhman, and he in 1770 A.D. by Ragunath Rao Hari, who ruled over the Jhansi principality for 24 years and

made himself practically independent of Poona. At his death in 1794 A.D. he was succeeded by Sheo Rao Hari, better known as Sheo Rao Bhao.

Appearance of the British. Meanwhile, country yielding a revenue of Rs. 36,16,000 per annum had been ceded to the British by the celebrated treaty of Bassein in 1802, which by a supplemental provision in 1803 was declared to be the land conquered in Bundelkhand for the Poona Darbar by Ali Bahadur. The country from Allahabad to the Dhasan was, with the help of Raja Himmat Bahadur Gosain, quickly overrun during 1803-04; and this brought the British into close relations with the various Maratha and Bundela states contiguous to their new acquisitions. A treaty was concluded with Sheo Bhao Rao on February 6th, 1804,* by which that chief's possessions were secured to him, under the suzerainty of the Poona court, and British protection was promised him. Some years later, in 1812,† an offensive and defensive alliance was made with the Raja of Orchha, by which the British Government guaranteed to him the territories then in his possession and withdrew all claims to the payment of any tribute. Similar treaties were concluded with other Bundela chiefs. Himmat Bahadur was assigned a *jagir*, Ali Bahadur took up his residence at Banda with a pension of Rs. 4,00,000 a year, and Nana Gobind Rao Pandit was secured in a considerable tract of country in Jalaun.

Internal history of the Jhansi state. In 1815 A.D. Sheo Rao Bhao was succeeded by his minor grandson Ram Chand Rao, with whom a second treaty‡ was concluded on November 18th, 1817. By the terms of this second treaty Raja Ram Chand Rao, his heirs and successors were constituted hereditary rulers of the territory then in the possession of Rao Ram Chand, with the exception of pargana Moth; the latter was at the time held in farm by the Jhansi government from Rang Rao Raja Bahadur, grandson of Naru Shankar. The Peshwa's rights over the principality of Jhansi had, shortly before this treaty was concluded, been transferred to the British Government by virtue of the treaty of June 13th, 1817. In 1822 Rao Ram Chand was permitted to change his title of *subahdar* for that of Raja, but his administration was weak and his affairs fell into

* Aitchison's Treat. II, p. 242. | † *Ibid* p. 261.
‡ *Ibid* p. 244.

great confusion. His revenues decreased till they hardly exceeded 12 *lakhs* per annum, and the Panwar Rajputs of Udgaon, Nouor and Jigna,* in 1832-33 A.D., overran and plundered the parganas of Jhansi, Pachor and Karahra, carrying off all that they could lay their hands on, and burning many villages. Ram Chand Rao died without issue on August 20th 1835, and four claimants to the state appeared, namely, Krishn Rao, an adopted son of Ram Chand Rao, a distant relation called Narayan Rao, and the two surviving sons of Sheo Rao Bhao, called Raghunath Rao and Gangadhar Rao. As the treaty of 1817 was interpreted to mean that the principality was secured to Sheo Rao Bhao's successors, the British Government acknowleged the succession of Raghunath Rao, the elder of the surviving sons of Sheo Rao Bhao. His administration was even worse than that of his predecessor: his revenues fell to three *lakhs* of rupees, and he became so heavily involved in debt that he was obliged to mortgage some of his villages to the Gwalior and Orchha states. He died three years later, without legitimate issue, his brief period of rule having been rendered unquiet by the opposition made to him, professedly on the ground of his being a leper. A pension was, however, granted to his illegitimate son, Ali Bahadur. On the death of Raghunath Rao in 1836 the succession again became the subject of contention between another set of four claimants, namely, Krishn Rao, Ali Bahadur, Janki Bai, his widow, and his brother, Gangadhar Rao. Some of the claims were obviously inadmissible, and the propriety of at once sanctioning any of them appeared very questionable, regard being had to the distracted state of the country, which had greatly deteriorated in condition from continual misgovernment. In these circumstances it was deemed advisable that direct administraction should be assumed by the Governor-General's Agent, the various claims to the throne being reserved for future adjudication. This step was accordingly taken, though not without opposition, Saku Bai, the mother of Ram Chand, who espoused the cause of Krishn Rao, compelling the British Government to make a military demonstration before she would quit the fort of Jhansi. A commission appointed to investigate the

* These all lie beyond the Pahuj river in Gwalior territory now.

different claims unanimously rejected all except that of Gangadhar Rao. The selection was approved by the authorities in England; but the new chief was of weak intellect, and was therefore thought unequal to the task of retrieving the principality from the state of disorder into which it had fallen. It was therefore determined to carry on the administration by British agency, giving the Raja a fixed allowance, with the understanding that the administration should be made over to him partially or entirely when it should be deemed safe to trust it to his hands, and Captain Ross was appointed first superintendent. Pargana Moth belonged to the British Government, but had been granted at a fixed annual revenue to the Raja of Jhansi, and, as this had not been paid, was resumed and placed under the management of the superintendent of Jalaun. After a few years of British management the country attained a condition in which it appeared safe to make the transfer contemplated, and in 1842 the Jhansi state was given up to Gangadhar Rao, subject to a cession of territory yielding a revenue of Rs. 2,27,458 in commutation of the annual payment previously made towards the support of half the cost of the Bundelkhand Legion.* The administration of Gangadhar Rao was on the whole good. He seems to have taken a personal interest in his state, and to have done good by turning his attention to works of public improvement; and there can be no doubt that his rule was popular. He died without heirs in November 1853, and there being no surviving male heirs, his possessions were held to have lapsed to the British Government. To his widow Lakshmi Bai, subsequently and better known to history as the Rani of Jhansi, was granted a pension of Rs. 5,000 a month.

Later history of the Chanderi state.

It is now necessary to return to the history of the Chanderi state, which still included most of the subdivision of Lalitpur. Raja Debi Singh was succeeded in 1717 A.D. by Durag Singh, whose accession, however, was only effected with the aid of the imperial forces. In 1732 A.D. he effectually defended his kingdom against the Marathas under Shankar Rao, and was

* The Bundelkhand Legion was the old Jalaun Force, originally raised for the defence of Jalaun, expanded and increased so as to defend Jhansi also. It was disbanded in 1846.

succeeded in the same year by Durjan Singh, during whose reign the Marathas secured their hold on Balabehat. His eldest son Man Singh built the fort of Mahroni, and died in 1760 A.D., while his successor, Anrud Singh, reigned till 1775 A.D. Anrud Singh's son, Ram Chand, was only three years of age when his father died; and his uncle Rao Hati Singh assumed the regency. As the latter was suspected of entertaining an intention to secure his own ultimate accession to the throne to the exclusion of his ward, Ram Chand's mother obtained the assistance of some kinsmen and expelled Hati Singh, whose place as regent was taken by Chaudhri Kirat Singh of Achalgarh.* Hati Singh then withdrew to Talbehat; and, after several months' desultory fighting, an agreement was arranged by which Hati Singh received Masora Khurd† and 15 other villages. Not till 1778 A.D. was Ram Chand securely seated on the throne. when he treacherously caused Hati Singh to be put to death. Taking advantage of these internal disturbances, the Marathas renewed their inroads. In 1787 A.D. a considerable force under the command of Morupanth of Saugor attacked the Bundelas under Rao Umrao Singh of Rajwara, Diwan Chhittar Singh of Jakhlon and other chiefs, and an indecisive battle was fought between Lalitpur and Panari, after which both parties returned to their homes. Meanwhile Raja Ram Chand, full of remorse for his black deed of murder, went on a pilgrimage to the chief shrines of upper India, and finally settled at Ajodhya, the administration of the state being carried on by one of his wife's relatives named Dovaju Panwar. In 1801 A.D. he abdicated in favour of his son, Parjapal, who, however, was killed fighting at Rajwara and was succeeded in turn by Mur Pahlad, the second son. In 1811 Sindhia, in revenge for constant attacks made by the Bundelas, sent an expedition under Colonel Jean Baptiste Filose to capture Chanderi. Mur Pahlad, with his family, fled to Jhansi, leaving the fort to be defended by Diwan Takht Singh and Kunwar Umrao Singh, who made a determined resistance. The siege was carried on for several weeks and eventually the fort was captured through the treachery of one Badh Singh, Rajput of Silgan.‡ After the capture of Chanderi, Colonel Filose

* In Gwalior, pargana Chanderi. | † Near Lalitpur.

‡ Three miles N.-W. of Lalitpur.

went to Garhakota, and despatched one of his officers to besiege Talbehat, where there was a fortress of considerable strength, held on behalf of the Raja by Ballabh Tiwari. The siege was carried on for three months without success, till Colonel Filose himself appeared and made such good use of his guns that the governor surrendered the fort. After the fall of Talbehat all resistance was at an end. The entire kingdom of Chanderi fell to Sindhia, who appointed Colonel Filose to the government of it. The Colonel ultimately, in 1813, restored all the confiscated *jagirs*, Mur Pahlad receiving Kelgawan and 30 other villages as his share. After this the Raja took up his abode at Kelgawan and lived there for 15 years, at the end of which disturbances broke out, headed by Mur Pahlad and his Bundela brethren, all whom were in some way dissatisfied with Sindhia's arrangements. An appeal was sent to the Governor-General's Agent at Banda, and Colonel Filose returned from Gwalior to effect an agreement. The arrangements which were then made were embodied in the first Batota treaty, which has been already described; * while some other matters leading to disaffection were finally settled by the second Batota treaty in 1838. After the conclusion of this treaty in 1838 A.D. Mur Pahlad took up his abode at Banpur, and assumed the title of Raja of Banpur. He died in 1842, and was succeeded by his son Mardan Singh. By the treaty of 1844, concluded between the British Government and Sindhia after the battle of Maharajpur, Sindhia's share of the Chanderi territory came under British rule as a guarantee for the payment of the Gwalior Contingent and was administered by a deputy superintendent, who also had criminal jurisdiction in Banpur. The pargana of Banpur and the various scattered villages comprised in the one-third share given to Mur Pahlad under the Batota treaty continued under the rule of Mardan Singh. As regards the rest of the district it was stipulated that the assumption of the management by the British Government should not involve the abolition of the sovereignty of the Maharaja or of the proprietary rights of the inhabitants.

Pargana Madaora.

The only portion of the district whose history is not covered by the above account is the pargana of Madaora in the south-

* *Supra* p. 118.

eastern portion of the subdivision. This portion of the subdivision, with Dhamoni, fell into the hands of Raja Chhatarsal finally in 1707 A.D. On the Raja's death in 1731 A.D. Dhamoni fell to the share of his eldest son, Hardi Sah, who held it for four years, dying in 1738 A.D. Sobha Singh, son of Hardi Sah, who succeeded his father as Raja of Panna, bestowed a suitable *jagir* on his youngest brother, Amra Singh, but refused to give anything to his other brother, Prithvi Singh. The latter, accordingly, joined the Maratha inroad to the Doab, and in reward for his services the Peshwa Baji Rao obliged Raja Sobha Singh to bestow on him a *jagir* worth three *lakhs*. This *jagir* comprised parganas Shahgarh and Madaora, and to it was added, by the Peshwa, that of Garhakota, but it did not include *taluqas* Narhat and Sindwaha, which, if they did not form part of the Peshwa's share of Chhatarsal's inheritance originally, remainded under the Maratha governor of Saugor till they passed to the British in 1819. Prithvi Singh made Garhakota his capital and was succeeded by Hari Singh. Next followed Mardan Singh, who twice defeated the Maratha governor of Saugor and built the fort of Malthon; and after him came Arjun Singh (1810 A.D.), during whose reign the pargana of Garhakota was annexed to the British district of Saugor. In 1842 he was succeeded by his son Wakht Bali Singh, the last and rebel Raja of Shahgarh, at whose deposition in 1858 A.D. this portion of territory was permanently added to the British possessions.

Irruption of the Pindaris.

The only other hostilities that took place during this period are connected with a predatory incursion of the Pindaris under Amir Khan. The expedition was part of a plan between Amir Khan and Holkar to enable their respective forces to harry the country after Daulat Rao Sindhia had concluded his last treaty with the British. In December 1803 Amir Khan passed up the *ghat* of Malthon and encamped near Tikamgarh. On hearing of his approach Mr. Ahmuty, who was then the British representative at Banda, advanced to Erachh with Colonel Shepherd's brigade of irregular troops, together with some men belonging to the Jhansi and Datia states, and a body of Gosains. Amir Khan, thinking the ground unfavourable for his purpose, returned again to Malthon, and Mr. Ahmuty, concluding that the enemy had

altogether retired, sent Colonel Shepherd's brigade, with 12,000 Gosains in the service of the Jhansi chief to follow Amir Khan and block the *ghat*, while he marched back himself to Banda. Colonel Shepherd accordingly advanced as far as Tikamgarh, where he heard that Amir Khan was still at Malthon. The Gosains of the party disdained to take up their position in the town of Tikamgarh and lay out in an open position beyond the place, where they threw up some entrenchments. Here they were attacked by Amir Khan, who, after a sharp engagement, returned once more to Malthon. After a delay of about two months, during which the British forces once more retired, Amir Khan set off towards Jhansi and plundered Mau-Ranipur. Thence continuing his predatory incursion he came as far as Erachh, where he learnt that a force was besieging the fort of Amanta Malaya near Kunch. He fought an action here on May 22nd with Captain Smith, the commander of the detachment, in which the latter was severely defeated, and by forced marches cut off a body of reinforcements encamped at Kalpi, which place, as well as Ata, he plundered. On returning to Kunch he tried to capture the British detachment there, but being unsuccessful, returned to Erachh and thence proceeded south to join Holkar. It was at Erachh that the grand army under the Marquis of Hastings, collected to stamp out the Pindari freebooters, encamped on its way to Gwalior in 1817.

Events antecedent to the Mutiny.

For the next fifty-four years no hostilities occurred in Jhansi proper to break the peace of the district, and it was not till 1857 that disturbances broke out in both portions of it, which reduced the administration to chaos. The country was full of powerful chiefs whose animosity against their rulers was only smothered and whose thirst for revenge supplied every material requisite for rebellion. At Jhansi itself was living the Rani Lakhshmi Bai, in receipt of a pension, who had been deeply irritated by the refusal of the British Government to allow her to adopt an heir to Gangadhar Rao: at Banpur was residing the heir to the kingdom of Chanderi, of which he had been deprived by Sindhia. Besides these there were influential Rajput *ubaridars* or *jagirdars*, such as those of Udgaon, Jigna and Noner, whose estates had been in whole or part resumed, and others, such as those of Jakhlon and Nanikpur, who chafed under the restraint of the

orderly government to which they were hardly more than in name as yet subjected. As early as April 1857 Thakur Jujhar Singh of Nanikpur died, and agreeably to the orders of the Government his tenure was resumed and a settlement made with his heirs, instead of a third part being given to the Rajah of Banpur, as it appears had been the custom according to the Batota treaty. Upon this Raja Mardan Singh of Banpur sent for the heir, Jawahir Singh, invested him with a *pagri*, and advised him to collect his retainers and begin a "*bhumiawat,*" as the surest means of inducing the British Government to restore him to his tenure on the same terms as his father held it. The Raja appears also to have been irritated by the refusal of the Government to accord him certain honours to which he considered himself entitled. During April and a part of May 1857 the Chanderi district was from unavoidable circumstances in temporary charge of Zain-ul-Abdin Khan, deputy magistrate and collector, a man of lazy and feeble character. Early in May Ganeshju, son of Jawahir Singh, Rajput of Nanikpur, presented a petition to the deputy magistrate, stating that his father was about to enter on rebellion, but the deputy magistrate with inconceivable folly refused to receive the petition because it was not on stamped paper. A few days later Jawahir Singh and other Rajputs went into revolt and commenced plundering. During the same month a report was spread in Jhansi, as in many other places in India, that the Government had caused ground bones to be mixed with the flour sold in the bazars, that cows' and pigs' fat had been used in making up the cartridges served out to the troops, and that two regiments of sepoys had been blown away from guns at Calcutta. At the same time Captain F. Gordon was informed that an agent of the Rani used to hold long private conferences with the native officers of the Jhansi troops, who frequently visited the Rani's palace, and that some treachery was intended. No reliance, however, appears to have been placed on this information, or on that brought by Mr. Scott, head writer in the deputy commissioner's office, who persisted in avowing that he had good reason to know that a mutiny was contemplated, and that the Rani and the troops were one. Some endeavours, however, were made by the civil and military officers to

ascertain the true feelings of the sepoys; but as these professed loyalty and used the cartridges without demur, confidence was to a large extent restored; and even the Rani was permitted to entertain a number of armed men, as she said, for her protection. Meanwhile Lieutenant Hamilton took over charge of the Chanderi district from Zain-ul-Abdin Khan on May 24th, 1857.

The Mutiny at Jhansi. The garrison in Jhansi at this time consisted wholly of native troops and comprised a detachment of foot artillery, the left wing of the 12th Regiment of Native Infantry (the right wing was at Nowgong), and the headquarters and right wing of the 14th Irregular Cavalry. The commanding officer was Captain Dunlop. The civil and administrative officers were Captain Francis Gordon, deputy commissioner of Jhansi, and Captain Skene, superintendent. On June 1st, information of an intended attack on Karahra having been received, a detachment was sent out to that place and their presence prevented the attempt. On the same day or the next two bungalows in cantonments were mysteriously fired and burnt, a fact which added to the general uneasiness, but three days later all disguise was laid aside and the mutiny commenced. At about 3 or 4 P. M. on June 5th a company of the 12th Native Infantry, led by one of its *havildars*, and cheered on by the native gunners of the battery, marched to the Star fort,* in which were kept the magazine and treasure, and announced their intention to hold it on their own account. Captain Dunlop and the other officers rushed to the parade ground, while all the Europeans and Anglo-Indians with a few exceptions were placed in the fort, which was garrisoned by the police. The remaining four companies of the regiment professed, however, to be highly indignant with the conduct of their brethren and both they and the cavalry declared they would stand by their officers. Confidence was somewhat reassured on receipt of this news, but the fort was fortunately not evacuated. Next morning Captain Dunlop prepared to bring the mutinous detachment to reason. He was visited by Captains Skene and Gordon, who then returned to the fort after writing letters to the Chiefs of Datia, Orchha and Gursarai

* The Star fort was a small fort in the cantonments, so called from its shape, which was occupied by the artillery and contained the treasure chest.

asking for assistance. About 2 P. M. a note was received from Captain Dunlop asking for some powder and cannon balls, which Captain Gordon refused to send; and Mr. Robert Andrews, deputy collector, who had been sent to the jail, to bring the ammunition there into the fort, returned with only a small quantity and the intelligence that the jail guard, headed by Bakshish Ali, the darogah, refused to allow any more to be removed. A large number of people, amongst whom were the Rani's principal adherents, were next seen proceeding with two flags towards the cantonments. On their arrival at the lines a man named Ahsan Ali called the Musalmans to prayers. This was a preconcerted signal. The whole force mutinied, with the exception of two *havildars*, who stood with Captain Dunlop and Lieutenants Taylor, Campbell, and Turnbull and shot down all their officers with the exception of Lieutenant Taylor, who, though wounded, managed to escape on horseback to the fort. On his arrival preparations were made for defence, but at this juncture Raghunath Singh, *ubaridar* of Noner, who was a pensioner of the Government, marched away with all his followers, leaving the garrison to their fate.

Attack and surrender of Jhansi fort.

The mutineers and rebels, meanwhile, advanced to the jail and released the prisoners. Joined by this disorderly rabble and the jail guard, they next set fire to the cutchery and the bungalows in cantonments, and, entering the town of Jhansi, seized all the Government servants they could find. They then proceeded to attack the fort, and continued firing till nightfall, when they drew off, leaving a strong force of the Rani's followers to surround the place till morning. During the night of June 6th a meeting was held between the mutineer native officers and the agents of the Rani of Jhansi to settle to whom the government of the country should be made over, and what was to be done with the Europeans in the fort. Some were for allowing the latter to go free, but this was overruled by Bakshish Ali and their death was decided on. The question of government, however, remained unsettled, as the parties could not come to terms, and the mutineers invited over from Unao* one Sada Sheo Rao Narayan, a relation of the late Raja of Jhansi, with a view to

* In Datia, 10 miles north of Jhansi.

setting him up in opposition to the Rani, and of driving a better bargain with her. Sada Sheo Rao reached Jhansi on June 8th and encamped in the mutineer lines. Between the night of the 6th and morning of the 7th June the *barkandazes* and Rajputs who were with the Europeans in the fort deserted, and the garrison themselves were prevented by the approach of daylight from an attempt to effect their own escape from the fort. On the morning of the 7th a party composed of Mr. Scott and the two Messrs. Purcell were sent by Captain Skene to treat with the Rani; but they were sent on arrival at her palace to the mutineer lines, where they were put to death. About 2 P. M. an attack was again made on the fort which continued till evening, but without success: it was taken up again the next morning, with the help of some guns obtained from the Rani. An attempted escalade failed; but towards the afternoon the lower works of the fort were carried, and the inner fort nearly fell into the hands of the rebels through the treachery of some menials. Shortly after this a stray shot carried off Captain F. Gordon, and his death exercised a most depressing effect on the survivors, who soon after signified to the besiegers their readiness to surrender. The rebels and mutineers collected near the main gate and promised by the most sacred oaths that the fugitives would be allowed to depart in safety if they vacated the fort and laid down their arms. These terms were agreed to, the gates were thrown open, and the survivors left the fort, only to be immediately made prisoners by the rebels. The whole party were taken through the town towards the Star fort, but on reaching the Jokhan Bagh, just outside the city walls, word was brought that the risaldar had ordered all to be put to death. The servants who accompanied their masters were then put aside; the gentlemen were separated from the ladies and children, and a general massacre took place, which was initiated by Bakshish Ali, jail darogah, cutting down Captain Skene. The bodies of the dead were left exposed on the highroad, where they were murdered, for three days, and were then thrown, the men into one, and the women into another, gravel pit and covered over.*

* The scene of the massacre is commemorated by a memorial, which stands in a small garden between the Jokhan Bagh and the fort. An inscription gives the names of 61 persons then massacred.

Meanwhile the detachment which had been sent to Karahra had also mutinied and joined their comrades at Jhansi, their commandant Lieutenant Ryves escaping to Gwalior; and on the evening of the day of the massacre a proclamation was issued to the effect that "The people are God's: the country is the King's: and the two religions govern." On the 9th June a dispute again arose as to who should govern the Jhansi territory, the Rani and Sada Sheo Rao bidding against each other. Ultimately, on the Rani paying down a large sum and promising much more, the mutineers made it over to her, and a proclamation was issued that "The people are God's: the country is the King's: and the Raj belongs to Rani Lakhshmi Bai." The Rani accordingly assumed the government on behalf of her adopted son, a child of eight years, named Damodar Rao; and on the 11th June the mutineers left Jhansi for Dehli. Sada Sheo Rao, having failed to enlist the mutineers in his cause, now also left Jhansi and, assembling about 300 men, seized the fort of Karahra on June 13th. He removed the British native officials, appointed his own, levied money and issued a proclamation to the effect that "Maharaja Sada Sheo Rao Narayan has ascended the throne of Jhansi at Karahra." Shortly after, however, the Rani sent some of her troops against him and he fled to Narwar, whence he was inveigled by the Rani into her power and put under restraint. The Rani then sent agents to the Nana of Bithur, levied troops, established a mint and began strengthening the fortifications of Jhansi and Karahra. At the same time she attempted to keep on friendly terms with the British, and wrote to the commissioner of Jabalpur, lamenting the massacre and stating that she had no hand in it, and declaring that she only held the Jhansi district till the British Government could make arrangements to reoccupy it.

Events at Lalitpur.

While these events were taking place at Jhansi the Chanderi district became progressively more and more disordered. Captain A. C. Gordon took over charge from Lieutenant Hamilton on June 7th to find the Bundelas up in arms in all directions. As the news of the outbreak at Jhansi spread, plundering commenced everywhere and large disorderly bands of Rajputs collected at Chanderi, Talbehat and around Lalitpur.

The Raja of Banpur, who had been invited to come to Lalitpur by Lieutenant Hamilton, played from the first a double game. While ostensibly professing attachment to the British and reprehending the rebellious Rajputs, he occupied on the 11th or 12th June the passes above Malthon with strong bodies of his matchlockmen, and used his utmost endeavours to demoralize the sepoys of the wing of the 6th Gwalior Regiment then stationed at Lalitpur. Captain Gordon, who was aware of the part played by the Raja, could do nothing in the absence of reinforcements from Sindhia's commander at Isagarh but urge the Raja to give practical proof of his sincerity by retiring to his own territory. When, however, this advice had no effect and intriguing still continued, Captain Gordon declined all further interviews with him and peremptorily ordered him to Banpur. Upon this the Raja left Lalitpur and took up his quarters at a fort of his own at Masora, only four miles away, where he had collected a strong force of Bundelas and some guns, in defiance of Captain Gordon's order. On the 4th June the treasure was removed to the custody of the sepoys, and on the following day it was determined to fall back on Gwalior territory in the direction of Isagarh. The Raja's men now pushed on as far as the bazar at Lalitpur, and as the troops were about to evacuate the town Captain Gordon thought it advisable to make over the district to the Raja for the purpose of preventing plunder. When all arrangements had been made to commence the march, however, the troops broke into open mutiny and refused to move: they cried out that they were the servants of the King of Dehli, and advised their officers to be off. The party now being compelled to abandon their plan, proceeded along the Saugor road, but at the end of the bazar fell in with some of the Raja's men, who took them to Masora. Here they were met by the Raja's agent, with a paper guaranteeing them protection, and were put into confinement in the fort. Next day the Raja, having refused to see Captain Gordon, moved into Lalitpur with a large force and some guns. On the 15th June, after Captain Gordon had been compelled by force of circumstances to sign a paper, the purport of which was that he handed over charge of the district of his own free will to the Raja, the whole party was sent from Masora

to Banpur, which they reached on the morning of the 16th. At 2 P. M. on the 17th they were forwarded to Tikamgarh under a guard of Banpur men, who left them on the Jamni river at the Tehri boundary. The party proceeded towards Tikamgarh, but had gone only a short distance, when it was met by a body of matchlockmen, who stated that they had express orders to prevent the Europeans entering the state. After some delay, however, the latter were allowed to send a man to Tikamgarh to endeavour to procure permission for them to proceed. Some hours later this was accorded, and the fugitives arrived at Tikamgarh and took up their abode at the house of Prem Narayan, the tutor of the young Raja of Orchha, to whose good offices it appears they were indebted for succour. Here they remained till July 2nd, when in consequence of an official letter from Major Pinkney at Saugor they were forwarded, attended by a strong body of men, along the Shahgarh road. They arrived at Shahgarh on July 5th, and were most hospitably received by the Raja of Shahgarh, who made great professions of friendship for the British Government; but on the 7th, when they had made all preparations for proceeding, they were informed that a mutiny had taken place at Saugor and that they could not possibly proceed there. Three days later information was brought that the mutineers were rapidly advancing on Shahgarh, and shortly after some of the rebel irregular cavalry arrived, accompanied by the Raja. The fugitives were immediately removed to a garden house and then moved about from village to village till the mutineers left, when they returned to Shahgarh. By this time the Raja had already invaded British territory and become a rebel like the Raja of Banpur, with whom he was in constant correspondence. He however continued his professions of loyalty to Captain Gordon, fired a salute for the supposed fall of Dehli on the evening of July 18th, and next morning told the Europeans that they were to start at once. From this time forward they experienced nothing but ill treatment. They were hurried off and made over as prisoners to a guard commanded by Diwan Lachhman Singh, the Raja's brother, and exposed to every form of insult, being threatened with hanging and flogging. Thakur Lachhman Singh of Narhat, however, who pretended to have joined the rebels, but

who had come into the camp to communicate with Captain Gordon on the part of Major Western, deputy commissioner of Saugor, prevailed on Diwan Lachhman Singh to apologize and treat them better. Shortly after the latter left to attack the British troops at Binaika, by whom he was defeated with the loss of a cannon, he himself being severally wounded. The Europeans thereupon were sent to a place called Papite,* confined in a cowshed and insulted in every way. On July 25th Captain Gordon was sent for by the Shahgarh Raja, who stated that he was still anxious to be the ally of the British, but on the condition that he should receive the Garhakota pargana and have his gun restored to him: he added that he gave the British Government eight days to consider his terms, and that if he received an unfavourable reply he would join the rebels. He also promised to send the Europeans direct to Saugor, one of their party remaining with him as a hostage for the return of his gun, and he finished by apologizing for the hardships they had suffered. Upon this Captain Gordon gave the Raja a certificate testifying to his services. On the morning of July 27th the party started with a guard for Binaika. When about two miles from that place they were met by three sowars who demanded the weapons which had been restored to them, and said they had been sent by the Raja to bring the party back. On reaching Papite they met a party of the Raja's troops, and the sowars immediately made off. The commander of these troops declared that the sowars had not been sent by the Raja, and despatched a messenger to him to state what had occurred. The Raja, however, simply ignored the whole proceeding.

On July 29th the whole party were removed to Baretha,† a fort in the middle of the jungle, and were informed that the Raja could not send them to Saugor owing to the disturbed state of the country. They remained at Baretha till September 12th, 1857, during which time their treatment was even worse than before. They were confined in two leaky rooms, sometimes ankle deep in mud, situated in a small courtyard, one side of which was occupied by the guard. They had no change of clothes, were not permitted to go anywhere without a detail of the guard, and their food was of the coarsest description, the daily sum allowed

* Thirteen miles south-west of Shahgarh.

† Two miles south of Girar.

for the support of fifteen people being one rupee and two pice. Several of the party suffered severely in health. On September 7th Colonel Miller's Madras column having advanced to Damoh the Shahgarh Raja became alarmed. He sent for Captain Gordon to Shahgarh, stated that he had made up his mind to send the whole party into Saugor in safety, expressed a wish to be friendly to the British Government, and insisted on giving Rs. 200 as compensation to those who had been deprived of their arms. The party left Baretha on September 12th and reached Saugor in safety two days later.

Meanwhile the Raja of Banpur became master of the district of Chanderi, and established himself at Lalitpur. A quarrel at once arose between him and the sepoys of the 6th Gwalior Regiment regarding the treasure left by Captain A. C. Gordon, the Raja demanding a share which the mutineers refused. The mutineers left Lalitpur the same evening, and were attacked by the Raja's followers, whom they beat off without trouble. Running fights ensued the whole way till the mutineers crossed the Betwa river and passed into Jhansi territory. When they reached Jhansi they were hospitably received by the Rani and feasted by her for three days. The Banpur Raja was now in undisputed possession, plundered all who were supposed to favour the British Government, extorted revenue and established a cannon foundry on European principles, with an excellent boring apparatus, at Banpur. At this time Major Gaussen, with a detachment of the Saugor garrison, was at Malthon, whither he had gone to protect the northern frontier of Saugor against the forces of the Raja of Banpur. On June 23rd he took the fort of Balabehat, but a few days later part of his force mutinied and he was forced to retire on Saugor. This left the northern portion of the Saugor district at the mercy of the rebels, and on July 7th and 8th the Raja of Banpur took possession of parganas Khemlasa and Korai. He then advanced with some 1,200 men to Naroli,* and occupied a strong position, from which a portion of his force on July 25th made a demonstration in the direction of Saugor cantonments. On the troops of the garrison being sent against it this detachment decamped. A similar unsuccessful movement was made by the same force on September 17th.

State of the Chanderi district.

* Two miles north of Saugor.

Affairs in Jhansi proper.

Meanwhile the Orchha state, conceiving that a favourable opportunity had arrived for possibly winning back some of the territory it had lost at the hands of the Marathas nearly a hundred years before, sent a force into the Jhansi district, which occupied Mau-Ranipur on August 10th and overran parganas Mau, Pandwaha and Garautha, burning and plundering wherever it went. The Orchha troops then moved on Barwa Sagar, which they took, and on September 3rd, 1857 set siege to Jhansi, under the leadership of Nathe Khan, the chief adviser of the state, in person. The siege continued till October 22nd, 1857, when, having been outwitted by the Banpur Raja who came to Jhansi and introduced provisions which were much needed, and having heard of the fall of Dehli and the improvement in the fortunes of the British, Nathe Khan raised the siege. His troops, however, had meantime inflicted great injury on the agricultural population by plundering and driving off cattle. During all these proceedings the Orchha state represented itself as our ally and as acting against the rebel Rani of Jhansi. In January 1858 the Rani of Jhansi's troops began to gain the ascendancy round Pandwaha and Mau-Ranipur, and by March 1st the Orchha troops were defeated and expelled from all the Jhansi territory between the Betwa and Dhasan. The Rani's position was now secured over the territory formerly held by her husband and she entered into close relations with the Nana, Tantia Topi and the Banpur Raja.

Advance of the Central India Field Force.

Before the Rani's position was thus established, however, retribution had begun to advance from the south. On 24th January 1858 the second brigade of the Central India Field Force under Sir Hugh Rose arrived before Rahatgarh and began the investment of the fort. The fort soon fell, and a large force under the Raja of Banpur which had advanced to its relief on the 27th was easily dispersed and defeated at Banodia on the 30th. Having next taken Garhakota, Sir Hugh Rose returned to Saugor and began his advance towards Jhansi on February 27th. The Banpur Raja abandoned Korai and Khemlasa and occupied the pass above Malthon in strength. The British force reached Rajwans on March 1st and, a reconnaissance having shown that the storming of the Malthon pass would inevitably

entail great loss of life, the commander determined to make a feint in this direction and to concentrate his attack on the easier pass of Madanpur, which was held by the rebel Raja of Shahgarh and some mutineers of the 52nd Bengal Infantry. The pass of Madanpur was carried by a brilliant charge of infantry on March 3rd, the enemy being defeated with severe loss. The Raja of Banpur now abandoned the Malthon pass and the forts of Narhat, Sonrai and Madaora; and as the British forces rapidly advanced they found both Banpur and Talbehat deserted. On the 18th news was brought of the capture of Chanderi by Brigadier-General Stuart, and on the 19th Sir Hugh Rose marched to Chakarpur, 14 miles from Jhansi Fort, to reconnoitre and invest which the cavalry and artillery of the second brigade were sent forward on the afternoon of March 20th. While encamped at Chanchanpur despatches were brought to Sir Hugh Rose and Sir Robert Hamilton, the political officer with the column, from the Commander-in-Chief and Governor-General respectively. The purport of these was that the British forces should move at once to the support of the Raja of Charkhari, who was besieged by the rebel bands of Tantia Topi. As such a movement would have been unproductive of fruitful results, Sir Robert Hamilton took upon himself the responsibility of disobeying this order, and on the morning of March 21st the whole column arrived before Jhansi. During the day the defences of the town and the lie of the ground were thoroughly reconnoitred by Sir Hugh Rose in person, and during the following night, having now been joined by the cavalry of the first brigade, he completely surrounded the fort and city with his mounted troops. The enemy's strength was computed at 11,000 men, composed of mutineers, foreign mercenaries and local levies, and the whole of the surrounding country had been desolated, rendering the lack of fodder acute. Ample supplies, however, were provided by the Rajas of Orchha and Gwalior, and little difficulty in this respect was ultimately felt.

Siege of Jhansi.

On the night of the 22nd the siege commenced: by the evening of the 24th, after great labour and exertion, four batteries were thrown up at points personally selected by the general, constituting the right attack, while the first brigade was posted

to the south of the fort and formed the left attack. On the morning of the 25th the batteries opened fire, and for seven days an incessant fusillade was kept up, to which the enemy, urged and encouraged by the Rani in person, maintained an effectual reply. For breaching purposes Sir Hugh Rose was only able to use two 18-pounders, the remainder of the guns being laid so as to employ the enemy incessantly and to damage the buildings inside the city, and the progress, owing to the great strength of the walls, was exceedingly slow. On the 29th, however, the parapets of the mamelon bastion were levelled from the fire by the left attack and the enemy's guns were rendered useless. The cannonade continued during the next two days with great spirit, and a barely practicable breach had been effected, when intelligence was brought that Tantia Topi was advancing from the north to the relief of the garrison.

Defeat of Tantia Topi's relieving force.

The force with which the British now had to deal, swollen by rebels of the Gwalior Contingent, local levies and the troops of the rebel Rajas of Banpur and Shahgarh, numbered according to Tantia Topi's own admission 22,000 men and 28 guns. The intelligence of its approach had already reached the besieged and raised their hopes of deliverance to the highest pitch, animating them to fresh exertions to repair the losses of the last few days. The raising of the siege would have exercised an enormous moral influence on them; and the general accordingly resolved to relax nothing from the investment, but to oppose Tantia with all the available troops not on actual duty; these amounted all told to only 1,500 men. On the morning of the 1st April Tantia Topi advanced to the attack in the teeth of the fire of the few British guns, which were powerless to check him. His two wings greatly overlapped the small British force, and accordingly two bodies of cavalry with light guns were detached to develop flank attacks while the infantry held the centre. The manœuvre was carried out with great rapidity and gallantry, and the centre of the enemy's line, confused by the double attack, broke into disordered masses and fell back, hotly pursued by the infantry, on their second line.* The second line, commanded by Tantia in

* The scene of the battle with Tantia Topi was Chauki Dhan Singh in Orchha territory, about one mile north-west of Nohat-*ghat*, where the Nowgong road crosses the Betwa.

person, was occupying a position upon rising ground, its front covered by jungle, about two miles to the rear, and would have doubtless proved a rallying post for the confused parties that were now flying towards it had not it itself been thrown into dismay by the sudden appearance of Brigadier-General Stuart and a force of cavalry on the right. While Sir Hugh Rose had been engaged with the main body of the enemy a large detachment of rebels had taken advantage of the battle raging in front to move to the right in the direction of Jhansi. This movement had been perceived by General Stuart, who with a detachment of the first brigade advanced against them, defeated them, and drove them back in such confusion that they lost large numbers of killed and all their guns. The day was evidently lost, and resistance was hopeless; the only thing remaining to be done for Tantia was to save his second line and the remaining guns. Firing the jungle to confuse his assailants, he commenced a retreat across the Betwa and succeeded in getting over his reserve and guns and some fugitives of the first line. He was, however, again attacked by the cavalry and horse artillery, who had dashed through the burning jungle, and ultimately fled with the remnant of his demoralised army towards Kalpi. Fifteen hundred rebels were killed or wounded, and all his guns were captured.

The storming and capture of Jhansi.

The siege was now pressed with more vigour than ever. On the 2nd April the breach in the city wall having being reported practicable, Sir Hugh Rose determined to storm the place the following morning. The left attack was completely successful, but the right was met with a galling fire and had momentarily to check and take cover. Reinforced soon after, they again advanced and gained a footing on the ramparts in the teeth of fierce opposition. At this moment those of the left attack who had made their way inside the breach charged the defenders on the flank and rear, and drove them in confusion from their position. The stormers of both parties then united and advanced towards the palace, which had been prepared by the rebels for resistance in the last resort. The houses on both sides of the streets had been set on fire, and severe fighting took place in every avenue leading to it. When at length the palace was gained every room was savagely contested, and each chamber had to be cleared at the point of the

bayonet, till at last fifty men of the Rani's bodyguard, who had taken refuge in the stables attached to the building, were disposed of and all opposition was silenced. No sooner had this been accomplished than information was brought that a party of the rebels, numbering about 400, after vainly trying to force the pickets of one of the cavalry camps, had taken up a position on a hill* to the west of the fortress, where they had been surrounded by the cavalry. The hill was stormed immediately by a detachment of the 24th Native Infantry, who killed all but about twenty: these retreated to the summit and there blew themselves up. All that night and the following day desultory fighting continued, the enemy being either slaughtered or driven under the shelter of the fort guns, while measures were being organized for an attack on the fort itself. Further trouble, however, on this score was spared. During the night of the 4th the Rani disguised, it is believed, as a man, evacuated the fortress with her remaining followers and fled to Kalpi. The fortress was occupied by Sir Hugh Rose on April 5th.

State of the district.

As the enemy had abandoned all their posts in Lalitpur and active opposition ceased when the column was advancing on Jhansi, Captain Maclean was left behind in charge of Chanderi, and outposts of Orchha troops were established in various parts. But hardly had the troops left for Jhansi, when disturbances broke out; large bodies of rebels at once assembled and attacked the *tahsil* at Talbehat. No troops could be spared by Sir Hugh Rose when he left for Kalpi, except for Jhansi itself, and their absence was at once taken advantage of by rebels to again overrun the district. Chanderi was recaptured and Moth was plundered and partially burnt. Major Orr's Hyderabad force was detailed to deal with these disorderly bands, but before they could be brought to book he received orders to march to Gwalior. The revolt at Gwalior added fuel to the flame, and within a week of the news getting abroad the whole country was once more in open revolt. Captain Maclean, who had only 150 Gond police and some Orchha troops, found his position untenable as early as June, and fell back on Banpur and then on Tikamgarh. Shortly

* This hill is known as Retribution Hill and lies about half a mile north-west of the railway station.

after the whole Chanderi district, with the exception of the fort of that name which had been retaken by Sindhia's troops and Banpur, fell into the hands of the rebels. In fact any attempt at reducing that portion of the district was temporarily abandoned, and Captain Maclean was recalled and placed in charge of Jhansi. The country between the Betwa and Dhasan, with the exception of Gursarai and the fort of Mau, was overrun by a mingled crowd of mutineers and rebels, part of whom came from the district of Hamirpur. On 24th June the *tahsildar* and *thanadar* of Mau were given up by their own men and murdered; but on the 2nd July Moth was reoccupied by a military force sent by Sir Hugh Rose after the capture of Gwalior. On 5th July the Banpur Raja, having previously opened negotiations with Captain Maclean, gave himself up to Mr. Thornton, assistant superintendent at Madaora, but was shortly afterwards allowed to return to the Chanderi district, where he continued intriguing and collecting revenue till early in August, when he finally surrendered, and with the Shahgarh Raja proceeded under an escort to Gwalior. On July 19th a strong detachment of troops was sent to garrison Barwa Sagar for the purpose of holding in check the rebels about Mau-Ranipur, who amounted to about 6,000 men or more. Later in the same month troops were sent out to Pachor, accompanied by Captain Maclean, and drove the rebels out of the western portion of the district, and Captain Liddell advanced against the Mau-Ranipur rebels early in August. These fled on his approach to Garautha, and were finally dispersed by the Gursarai chief. One party of troops, however, was left at Garautha and another at Mau, and these during September were able to break up and disperse the disorderly bands which kept pouring over the Dhasan from Hamirpur, while Captain Ashburner, on his way to Kunch, effectually cleared Bhander and Moth.

Disturbed state of Lalitpur.

At the end of August Lieutenant Fenton, deputy commissioner of Chanderi, left Jhansi to take charge of his district. He had with him only a few police, but was to meet 100 Bhopal sowars and 130 Bhopal infantry near Banpur. On reaching Banpur he procured from the Orchha state 700 matchlockmen and 2 guns, and feeling himself strong enough pushed on to Lalitpur, which he reached on 28th August, 1858. Meanwhile, however, Tantia

Topi was on the move towards Chanderi, and some rebels, probably incited by his emissaries, drove out and cut up several of the police at Talbehat and Bansi. On September 25th Captain Fenton received intelligence that these rebels were moving on Banpur *viá* Bar, and determined to leave behind a small force in Lalitpur and march with the rest against them towards Banpur. The Bhopal Infantry, however, who were new levies and had been selected to be left behind, refused to remain in Lalitpur, and ultimately Captain Fenton was obliged to take his whole force with him. Towards evening heavy rain fell, and when the party arrived at Kalianpur* they found the country a sheet of water and all the rivers on the road impassable. Captain Fenton then determined to march back to Lalitpur, but now the Orchha troops refused to do so, and Captain Fenton was obliged to return to his original intention of going to Banpur. Next day the rear guard arrived and reported that the rebels had occupied Lalitpur, while the Bhopal Infantry also became disorderly and a *jamadar* with 20 men deserted. On the 29th September the Sajnam river near Kalianpur became fordable and the party crossed, only to be shortly afterwards attacked by a body of rebels, who, however, were beaten off with a loss of 20 or 25 men. The same day Banpur was reached, and a force of 150 military police under Lieutenant Turner arrived to its assistance.

Tantia Topi's movements.

After taking Isagarh in Gwalior territory Tantia Topi divided his forces into two portions, one of which, numbering approximately 11,000 men under the command of the Rao Sahib, the Nana's nephew, entered the north-west of the Jhansi district near Mayapur, and took Pachor on October 6th. They then pushed on a party half way to Karahra, from which the Government establishments were withdrawn; but getting some intelligence regarding the approach of a force from Gwalior the rebel Rao suddenly marched with his whole force to Siras-*ghat* on the Betwa, and crossing the swollen river with some difficulty occupied Talbehat, where he was joined by all the Bundelas of the neighbourhood. Meanwhile Tantia Topi on the 7th October attacked Chanderi. He was, however, beaten off with some loss and retreated to Serai† with the intention of crossing the Betwa

* Eight miles east of Lalitpur.

† Ten miles south of Chanderi.

to Lalitpur and then attacking Tikamgarh. When intelligence of his intentions was received at Jhansi all available troops and police were concentrated at Barwa Sagar, and a force under Colonel Liddell was pushed on to Pirthipur and thence to Dogora:* the Siras and Jharar-*ghats* north of Talbehat were guarded by police, with Colonel Scudamore's detachment at Dukrai, 15 miles to the rear, and all means of escape east and north cut off. Brigadier Smith watched the left bank of the Betwa on the west. Tantia Topi with his division, having failed against Chanderi, and suffered a defeat at the hands of General Michel near Magrauli, crossed the Betwa and joined the Rao Sahib at Lalitpur on October 14th. Their united forces, swollen by a large following of Bundelas, having halted for two or three days, moved off in a south-easterly direction towards Shahgarh; but on October 18th they were met by General Michel and defeated at Khajuria,† near Sindwaha, with heavy loss in men and all their guns. The rebel army then fled north to Talbehat, where a part arrived on October 20th, but, finding their escape both east, north and west cut off, again doubled back to the south through the difficult and jungly country along the east bank of the Betwa, and escaped into the Saugor district, followed by General Michel. On November 7th Captain Fenton entered the Chanderi district, which he gradually reduced to order, though it was some time before the Jakhlon, Pali and Nanikpur Rajputs tendered their allegiance.

Subsequent history.

Nothing more occurred in Jhansi proper to disturb the public peace, and all the Government establishments were reorganized. By 1860 matters in both portions of the district had assumed their normal aspect. The territories of the rebel Rajas of Banpur and Shahgarh were confiscated, those of the former being added to Chanderi and those of the latter partly to Chanderi and partly to Saugor. In that year a large tract of country was handed over to Sindhia; *taluqas* Narhat and Sindwaha of the Saugor district were added to Lalitpur, and the entire district assumed the proportions which, except for the smaller modifications made under the treaties of 1871 and 1886 in Jhansi proper, it has since retained. Its subsequent history is one of fiscal or administrative changes, which have been sufficiently detailed in the preceding pages.

* Eighteen miles north of Tehri. | † Fourteen miles south-east of Lalitpur.

GAZETTEER

OF

JHANSI.

DIRECTORY.

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ARJAR, *Tahsil* MAU.

A small village, eighteen miles east of Jhansi in 25° 19′ N. and 78° 55′ N., with a population of 440 souls. The village is only noted for a large lake, lying to the south, the water in which is held up by two fine masonry embankments, said to have been built in the year 1671 A.D. by Surjan Singh of Orchha. The catchment area of the lake is estimated at 58·3 square miles and the cubic contents at 620,408,629 cubic feet, with a surface area of 81,394,444 square feet, while the water available is reckoned to be capable of irrigating 7,000 acres. The escape channel runs out to the north-west, cutting through a ridge of land which slopes gently towards the lake, and is crowned by the remains of an old embankment. The Marathas made an embankment to hold the water up at this point by placing a masonry weir across the bed of the escape nearer the lake, but an unusually high flood cut channels round it. In 1866 Major Brownlow recommended the building of a two-feet thick masonry floor across the openings cut by escape water and each side of the Maratha bund, and the protection of the flanks by strong earthen embankments curved towards the old bund. The district boundary runs across the lake, and there is a joint property in it between the Government and the Raja of Orchha. The Orchha Darbar objected to Major Brownlow's scheme, and subsequently carried out some improvements itself. Owing to difficulties connected with the joint ownership, it was found impossible to develop irrigation from the lake, and it was not put under the Irrigation department with the four larger lakes in 1899. Till 1905 it remained under the control of the district authorities, when it was placed in charge of the special officer appointed to the Tanks division of the Irrigation department; no direct irrigation, however, takes place from it. The village carries on a fast declining trade in fish and *keora* flowers. North of the lake lies a railway station on the Jhansi-Manikpur branch of the Great Indian Peninsula railway. The owners are for the most part resident Jijhotia Brahmans.

BABINA, *Tahsil* JHANSI.

A large village in the south of the pargana, lying in latitude 25° 14′ N. and longitude 78° 30′ E. on the main road from Jhansi to Lalitpur, at a distance of 17 miles from the former. There is a railway station of the same name about two miles west of the village, with which it is connected by a metalled road. Another road leads north-west to Baidora while from the main road close to the village a branch takes off to Siras-*ghat*, and a new metalled road has recently been constructed to the Dhukwan weir, distant 6 miles. The village contained in 1865 a population of 1,932 persons, which in 1901 had risen to 2,235, of whom 1,991 were Hindus, 100 Musalmans and 144 of other religions, chiefly Jains, with a few Christians. Dhimars are the prevailing Hindu caste; they are a subdivision of Kahars and work chiefly as boatmen and fishermen. Babina possesses a first-class police station, post office and school with three teachers, who give instruction in Hindi. There are three fairly large tanks within the village, known as the Bara Tal, Raja Tal and Bakshi Talao; the two latter of which are kept in repair and managed by the Government. The owners of the village are resident Ahirs.

BAGHAIRA, *Tahsil* MOTH.

A village lying two miles east of the intersection of two unmetalled roads running from Gursarai to Chirgaon and from Mau-Ranipur to Erachh and Moth, at a distance of 33 miles from Jhansi and 12 miles from Moth *viâ* Khiria-*ghat* on the Betwa in 25° 30′ N. and 79° 6′ E. It contains a police station and a post office: and a rocky hill, crowned by a small temple, forms a conspicuous landmark in it. The population in 1865 numbered 1,139 souls, and at the last census of 1901 there were 934 inhabitants, of whom 43 were Musalmans and 27 Jains. Kurmis own the village and form the bulk of the Hindu population.

BALABEHAT, *Pargana* BALABEHAT, *Tahsil* LALITPUR.

A considerable village lying on the Vindhyan plateau, 28 miles south of Lalitpur in 24° 18′ N. and 78° 28′ E. It gives its name to a pargana, and has a population of 904 persons. With

Lalitpur it is connected by two roads, one *viâ* Pali, which, however, south of Bamori Bansa is only a bridle path impassable to wheeled traffic, while the other leaves the Lalitpur-Saugor road at Betna and runs *viâ* Dongra and Maholi, a good unmetalled road raised as a famine relief work in 1897. There is also through connection with Dhourra railway station via Maholi, 14 miles, or by a track impracticable for vehicles *viâ* Morari 11 miles. The village contains a police outpost, and has a somewhat remarkable appearance owing to the majority of the houses being built of Vindhyan sandstone, the stone in many cases having been squared into pieces of brick shape. A weekly market is held on Mondays. It suffered severely during the decade from 1891 to 1901, especially during a visitation of cholera in 1897, and many of the houses are now empty and in ruins. The ancestral owners were Brahmans, the forefathers of one Sri Ram, who now possesses only a few patches of *muafi* land: they refused settlement in 1867, and the village was made over to one Kishor Singh, whose son sold it to one Ganga Singh, and he to its present owner, Raja Seth Gokal Das of Jabalpur. There is a fine old fort to the north of the site, which was built by Gangadhar, a Maratha governor, on what tradition says was the site of an old Gond fort: the fort contains a fine *baoli* well. To the west lies a picturesque temple on the bank of a small stream flowing from a perennial spring known as "Amonia;" and south-east are several *chattris* and *chabutras* in memory of women who died *sati*. On the outbreak of the Mutiny the fort was seized by Bundela rebels, and a detachment of troops from the Saugor garrison, who were sent to eject them, mutinied and joined them.

BALABEHAT *Pargana, Tahsil* LALITPUR.

Balabehat is the most southerly pargana in the tahsil of Lalitpur. It has a total area of 121,386 acres or 189·6 square miles. This amount includes 47·6 square miles of reserved forest, and of the total 21,246 acres are recorded as barren, while some 86,000 acres are culturable waste, leaving not more than 15,000 acres as normally under the plough. These figures suffice to show that the pargana is an unusually broken and poor one. It may be divided into three distinct portions.

Along the foot of the Vindhyan hills runs a narrow strip of good black soil, some sixteen miles long and on an average four miles broad, typified by the large villages of Bant, Pali and Dongra. This is succeeded to the south by the Vindhyan plateau at a higher elevation which rises directly from the plain, and is for the most part rocky jungle with no good villages and sparsely scattered population and cultivation, exemplified by Dhourra and Dudhai. This tract is a quadrilateral of regular shape bounded to the west by the Betwa and to the south by the Sonr river, approximately 20 miles long and six miles broad. To the south of the latter stream lies a square-shaped piece of country where this district sinks to the extensive black soil plain of Central India. In the north-east corner of this lies the town of Balabehat. The total population enumerated in 1901 was 13,711 persons, giving a density of only 74 per square mile; and there are only 81 villages in the tract. The chief crops grown are gram and wheat, which between them occupy practically the whole of the *rabi* area in the proportion of two to one, and *juar* and *kodon* with the smaller millets in the *kharif*. Besides these there are generally a few hundred acres under early rice, maize and *urd* or *mung*. The irrigated area is the smallest of any pargana in the district, occupying normally less than two per cent. of the cultivated area. The largest landholders are Bundela Rajputs. The whole tract has suffered severely in the famines and depression of the last decade, and at the recent revision of settlement was assessed to a demand of Rs. 6,370, the lowest sum paid by any pargana in Jhansi. The Great Indian Peninsula railway traverses the western portion of the pargana, which contains a station at Dhourra on the plateau, but otherwise the communications are poor, and the roads, which pass over wild and rocky jungle, are for the most part impassable for wheeled traffic. Balabehat contains some notable archæological remains, especially those at Chandpur, Dudhai and Deogarh, which will be separately noticed, and the tract is rich in historical associations of the earliest epochs of history. At Maholi about 100 yards west of the village there are two upright rough hewn stone pillars about 12 feet high and 20 feet apart, called Madarwara and attributed to a prehistoric Bansi Ahir. Tradition

says that in those days it was customary on the occasion of a marriage for the bride's father to drive out his cattle from the village to pasture and to present to the newly married couple as many animals as of their own accord passed between the pillars. Similar stones are found in other villages. At Kirauda, Lidhora, and Pali (the Nilkanth temple) are Chandel temples, and there are Bundela forts at Balabehat, Datia and Pali. There are also ruins at Bandargurha, Kakoria and Maholi, the two first being forts and the last a temple. The pargana contains fewer tanks than any other in the subdivision, the only important ones being those at Bant, Rampura, Chandpur and Dudhai.

BANPUR, *Pargana* BANPUR, *Tahsil* MAHRONI.

The chief town in the pargana of the same name lies in 24° 43′ N. and 78° 47′ E. It is situated about 2½ miles from the Jamni river and is connected by a good unmetalled road with Lalitpur, distant 22 miles, and Tikamgarh, distant 6 miles, the river being crossed by a causeway, and by other unmetalled roads with Mahroni, 9 miles, and Bansi *viâ* Bar, 23 miles. The nearest railway station is Lalitpur. There are a police station, post office and school; and a weekly market is held every Sunday. From 1830 to 1857 Banpur was the residence of a Raja. In the former year Mur Pahlad, ex-Raja of Chanderi, who had been expelled by Sindhia in 1811 and had since then been residing at Kelgawan, was granted, under the first Batota treaty, one-third of his former kingdom, consisting for the most part of the present pargana Banpur. He died in 1842 and was succeeded by his son, Mardan Singh, who took part in the rebellion of 1857, was deprived of his kingdom and put under restraint at Lahore. At the first settlement of 1868-69 the village of Banpur was settled two-thirds with Kunwar Sukh Singh of Bhailoni Suba, and one-third with Nirwe Singh, son of Rao Hamir Singh of Pali. The latter soon after lost his share, which is now mainly held by Brahmans. The old palace of the Raja is a conspicuous building, but it is in ruins, having been partially destroyed in 1858. There is a good specimen of a Chandel temple a short distance from the town on the Mahroni road, and several effective Jain shrines. The town is now somewhat decayed, and has no

special trade, though there is some through traffic to Tehri. In former times the place was noted for its *pan* gardens, which have been lately resuscitated. The Village Sanitation Act (U. P. Act II of 1892) is in force. The population of Banpur in 1901 numbered 2,908 persons, for the most part Jains and Ahirs.

BANPUR *Pargana, Tahsil* MAHRONI.

Banpur is the most northerly pargana in the Mahroni tahsil of the Lalitpur subdivision. It has a total area of 209,867 acres or 327·9 square miles, including 7·1 square miles of reserved forest. It is irregular in shape, being some 32 miles long from north to south and having an extreme breadth of approximately 20 miles between Imilia near the Jhansi-Lalitpur road on the west and Kelgawan on the Orchha border to the east, which narrows down to only 6 miles in the south where the Lalitpur-Mahroni road cuts across the pargana. Of the total area 22,434 acres or 15·38 per cent. are recorded as barren, and 209,867 or 60·37 per cent. as culturable waste, leaving approximately 60,500 acres or 25 per cent. as normally under the plough. It contains 116 villages, of which 107 are inhabited, and had in 1901 a total population of 48,532 persons. The pargana consists of two well-defined natural tracts. One-third of the whole lying south of a line drawn east and west through Banpur town is black soil, while the northern portions comprising the remaining two-thirds consist of *dumat* or mixed soil, becoming progressively redder, more gritty and more broken by hills till it finally merges in the rocky country of Talbehat. In the north-west between Baroda Dang and Semra Dang there is a very wild tract of rock and jungle, and in this direction the hills are peculiarly broken and fantastic. In the *kharif* the chief crops grown are *juar* in the southern black soil area, and *kodon* and other inferior millets to the north; but large areas are also under *urd* and *mung*, maize and early rice, and an important acreage is also devoted to *til*. In the *rabi* large areas are sown with wheat and barley, alone or mixed, the area under gram being proportionately small. Altogether the autumn harvest covers some 78 per cent. of the total cropped area, and the spring harvest over 20 per cent. Of the total cultivated area 17 per cent. is irrigated chiefly from

wells and a similar proportion is twice cropped in the year. The 116 villages were at the time of settlement in 1906 divided into 125 *mahals*. Of the latter 15 were in the hands of single landholders, 87 were held in joint *zamindari*, 3 in perfect *pattidari* and 20 in imperfect *pattidari* tenure. Rajputs held 60 per cent. of the land and after them Brahmans and Lodhis were the largest landholders. The only metalled road in the pargana is that portion of the Mahroni-Lalitpur road which cuts across the southern tract; but fair unmetalled roads traverse it running from Banpur to Gugarwara, to Bansi *viâ* Bar, to Mahroni, Bar to Hazari-*ghat*, Gugarwara to Kelgawan, and Paron to Churaoni. Besides those separately noticed there are large villages at Marauli, Paron, Pah, Sindwaha and Patha, and the northern tract contains a large number of good tanks, the chief being those at Bar, Billa, Chakora, Dulawan, Jaria, Larwari, Raksa, Bhailoni Suba, Baroda Dang and Silawan, from which irrigation is carried on. There are several archæological remains of interest. At Khajra is a temple, attributed to the Gonds, of small and primitive structure, and at Banpur and Gugarwara are Chandel shrines in fair preservation. There is the ruined Bundela palace at Banpur with some frescoes, and dilapidated forts of similar origin at Bar and Kelgawan. There are also a temple of uncertain origin at Dasrara and much-ruined forts at Bartala and Bilata.

BANSI, *Pargana* BANSI, *Tahsil* LALITPUR.

Bansi, the chief town in the pargana of the same name, lies in 24° 53′ N. and 78° 33′ E. on the metalled road from Jhansi to Lalitpur, distant 13 miles from Lalitpur and 43 from Jhansi. Unmetalled roads connect it with Jakhaura railway station 5 miles distant, with Rajghat and Chanderi *viâ* Jakhaura town, and with Mahroni *viâ* Bar and Banpur. The town contains a police station, post office and a school; and a market is held every Wednesday and Sunday. Bharat Sah, second Raja of Bar (1612—1646 A.D.) and first Raja of Chanderi (1616—1646 A.D.) on his accession bestowed on his brother, Rao Krishn Rao, a *jagir* with an estimated income of Rs. 75,000, of which Bansi was the centre. Krishn Rao built the fine old fort in 1618 A.D.

which has now been converted into a district bungalow; and is the ancestor of several families of Rajputs, all of whom are known as Bansiwalas. Bahadur Singh, a notable dacoit, was an eighth descendant of Rao Krishn Rao and was killed in Gwalior. He was succeeded by Aman Singh, who in 1863 refused settlement, which was accordingly made with his Kayasth agent. The descendants of the latter now hold two-thirds of the village, a Bundela of Muharo, also a descendant of Rao Krishn Rao, having lately purchased one-third. In addition to the fort there are two fair sized tanks, that to the south-west being an old Chandel work. A branch of the American Mission at Lalitpur has been established in the town. The population in 1901 was 2,104 persons, for the most part Jains and Kachhis.

BANSI *Pargana, Tahsil* LALITPUR.

Bansi pargana lies midway between parganas Lalitpur and Talbehat in Lalitpur tahsil. It is actually the smallest in the subdivision, having a total area of only 96,153 acres or 149·3 square miles. This area includes 8·6 square miles of reserved forest, and of the total 16,125 or 16 per cent. are returned as barren, 57,318 or 59 per cent. as culturable waste, leaving 23,000 acres or 25 per cent. as normally under the plough. As regards physical features, the entire pargana consists of the mixed soil called *dumat*, which becomes more and more broken by rocks and hills as the Talbehat border is approached. In and around Haraspur there is a large block of reserved forest which is the centre of a very wild tract. The pargana contains 59 villages, of which 55 are inhabited, and the total population in 1901 was 23,812 persons, giving a density of 159 to the square mile. The Lodhi element is of considerable strength. Of the total cultivated area nearly 25 per cent. is normally irrigated, and of the total cropped area 78 per cent. is devoted to *kharif* and 21 per cent. to *rabi* crops, while some 25 per cent. of the cultivation is twice cropped in the year. The chief crops grown in the latter harvest are wheat and barley, alone or mixed, five-sixths of which are irrigated in some way: while in the *kharif* the bulk of the area is sown with *kodon* and small millets or *juar*, with a fair proportion of early rice, *til*, maize and *urd* or *mung*. The principal land-

holders are Bundela Rajputs and Brahmans who own about 73 per cent. of the area between them. The metalled road from Jhansi to Lalitpur traverses the eastern portion of the pargana, and to the west roads lead from Jakhaura to Talbehat, Kotra, Rajghat and Lalitpur: the same place is joined to Bansi by an unmetalled road. The pargana contains no notable or extensive archæological remains. At Siron Khurd and Kisalwans are Chandel temples, and smaller shrines exist at Gursora, Jakhaura, Mainwar, Panchampur and Raipur. On the other hand there is a considerable number of fine tanks, the largest being those at Ghisauli, Gursora, Ikalgawan, Kisalwans, Haraspur, Jakhaura, Siron Kalan, Siron Khurd and Tainta: there are smaller ones at Asupura, Bansi, Karipahari, Lakhanpura, Nanora, Rasoi and Sirsi.

BANT, *Pargana* BALABEHAT, *Tahsil* LALITPUR.

Bant is a considerable village lying in 24° 30′ N. and 78° 25′ E. at the foot of the Vindhyan hills, 14 miles south-west of Lalitpur. With the latter place it is also connected by two unmetalled roads *viâ* Pali or Jakhlon, the distance being approximately 17 miles. At Jakhlon is a railway station which is distant only 4 miles, but which during the rains, owing to the flooding of the Shahzad river, can only be reached with difficulty. The population in 1901 was 811 persons. The village is owned by Mihrban Singh, along with Dudhai and Samogar, and is one of the best managed villages in the subdivision. It was settled with his father on the refusal of the Lodhis to engage for the revenue in 1867. There is an excellent tank, constructed in the famine of 1868 and extensively repaired since, which is now in the charge of the Irrigation department. This is formed by an embankment across the mouth of a valley running back about a mile into the hills, which are well wooded. At the head of the valley is a waterfall, though almost dry from October to April, named Chuan, and near it is a shrine to Mahadeo, where a small fair is held at the Sheoratri. The whole forms a most picturesque spot. About a quarter of a mile up the valley there is an outcrop of Kaimur conglomerate, and in the village there is a district bungalow.

BAR, *Pargana* BANPUR, *Tahsil* MAHRONI.

A large village in the north of pargana Banpur, lying in 24° 52′ N. and 78° 38′ E. Unmetalled roads connect it with Bansi, 8 miles, with Mahroni *vid* Banpur 24 miles, and with Hisar and Talbehat *vid* Paron and Buchera 24 miles. The direct distance from Lalitpur is 17 miles. The town contains a first-class police station, post office and school; and a market is held on Mondays and Fridays. It is picturesquely situated on the east side of a range of hills, a dam across a narrow gap in which has made a large tank covering 128 acres on the western side: below the embankment is a valuable *keora (Pandanus odoratissimus)* grove, which is Government property. The hills are reserved forest except close to the village, where they are crowned by ruins of old Bundela buildings. These date from the time of Ram Sah, who succeeded to the throne of Orchha in A.D. 1583 but was defeated by the imperial forces, finally captured and deported to Delhi. When Bir Singh Deo was made Raja of Orchha by the emperor Jahangir the latter carved out the *jagir* of Bar for Ram Sah, whom he released and made Raja of Bar in 1608. Ram Sah was succeeded by his son Bharat Sah in 1612, who four years later conquered Chanderi and transferred the headquarters of his kingdom there. The village had in 1901 a population of 1,848 persons, and the proprietary rights are held almost wholly by Brahmans.

BARAGAON, *Tahsil* JHANSI.

A small town in 25° 28′ N. and 78° 47′ E. on the high-road from Jhansi to Cawnpore, at a distance of nine miles from the district headquarters. It possesses a second-class police station, post office, road bungalow and village school with two teachers, who give instruction in Hindi. There is a large military encamping-ground close to the town, but it is liable to be flooded during the rains. Baragaon lies on the left bank of the Betwa: it is an unimportant place, with a population that has decreased from 2,652 in 1865 to 2,527 at the last census in 1901. Hindus number 2,443 as against 71 Musalmans and 13 Jains. It was formerly administered under Act XX of 1856, but the operations of the Act were withdrawn in April 1901. At

present the Village Sanitation Act (U. P. Act II of 1892) is in force. This village was formerly owed entirely by resident Kachhis, but these have now lost two-thirds of it, partly to a Marwari Bania of Chirgaon and partly to a Kayasth of Jhansi.

BARWA SAGAR, *Pargana* JHANSI, *Tahsil* JHANSI.

A town in 25° 24′ N. and 78° 48′ E. on the road from Jhansi to Mau, at a distance of twelve miles from the former. South of the road runs the Jhansi-Manikpur section of the Great Indian Peninsula railway with a station some two miles south-south-east of the town. Unmetalled roads run north to Dhamna on the Baragaon-Garautha road and south-east to Ranipur, distant 22 miles. There is a large military encamping-ground on the road, half a mile west of the village. The great lake, which is the most striking feature of the landscape, lies a quarter of a mile east of the site. This lake, as well as the fine old castle situated on its banks, was constructed about 200 years ago by Udot Singh, Raja of Orchha. The old cultivators of Barwa Sagar are descended from the labourers employed in the erection of the embankment by which the lake was formed, the water being supplied by the Barwa, an affluent of the Betwa. This embankment is a great work, built of stones in curving rows of steps towards the water, and forms nearly the whole of the northern border of the lake. The overflow used to escape along the old bed of the Barwa, and the volume was so great that on one occasion it carried away a new masonry bridge over which the main road passed; but an additional overflow has now been provided at the north-east corner. The lake is used for the purposes of irrigation by means of two outlets in the embankment, and some account of this has been given in chapter II. On its banks vegetables are largely grown, which are exported to Jhansi by rail. Though called Barwa Sagar, the lake lies wholly in the three *mauzas* Tal Ramanna, Ghughua and Chaplotha. The town is of moderate extent and lies to the north-west of the lake. It is situated in three *mauzas*, Phutera Barwa Sagar, Sanaura and Harpura, which are divided by narrow stretches of highly cultivated land. Sanaura lies immediately under the hill to the south-east and consists of a narrow strip of good

brick-built houses. Barwa Sagar itself consists of a collection of brick houses with tiled roofs; the two principal roads cross each other in the centre, where they form a square bazar, the shops extending along each road. Harpura is a small quarter and is mainly inhabited by cultivators. The town has a very pleasing appearance, with its good houses and the number of trees that are to be seen everywhere. In addition to two spacious *baghs* lying to the north of the fort, the Government owns a large number of mango trees scattered over Phutera Barwa Sagar and Nohat Chir, the lands of which are intermixed. These, which number 3,500, and the two *baghs* are collectively known as *Bari Amrai* and are generally leased at favourable rates to the ancestral proprietors of the two *mauzas*.

Barwa Sagar possesses a third-class police station, post office, *nazul* bungalow and a flourishing school, with five teachers, situated in the north-eastern corner of the town. There is also a bungalow belonging to the Public Works department picturesquely situated at the north-eastern corner of the lake in the village of Ghughua. The *nazul* bungalow really consists of a part of the castle and contains five sets of rooms, furnished with all necessary appurtenances. The ground floor consists of large vaulted rooms, connected with the upper storeys by a winding staircase. On the top there is a terrace overlooking the lake. It stands on a rock and is approached by a wide road that winds round the building and leads right up to the second storey. At one time it was proposed to make an archæological museum here and a number of statues and other relics were collected from Mahoba and elsewhere, but nothing further was done and the statues remain.

The place and neighbourhood is rather rich in antiquarian remains. On the north-east end of the embankment there is a small hillock with a ruined Chandel temple. A little further east there is an older temple, also of the Chandel period, built of massive blocks of gray granite and known as Ghughua Math. It consists of four cells, each with an ornamented doorway, over three of which are figures of Ganesh, and over the fourth a representation of Durga. About three miles west of Barwa Sagar is a temple tower of the ninth century, built on a mound

and known as Jarah-ki-Math. The eastern side is profusely ornamented with good carving, while on the north and south project hooded balconies. The interior is square, and contains an image of Shiva and Parbati. At the angles are eight massive stone shafts of the later Gupta period, which support lintels carrying a beautifully carved ceiling. There is a fragmentary inscription of the same period on a figure of Durga.

In 1865—68 a considerable correspondence took place in regard to a claim of the Gwalior Darbar to an annual assignment of Rs. 10,000 from the revenues of Barwa Sagar, the particulars of which are as follows. In 1744 A.D. Joti Bhau, one of the sons of Ranoji Sindhia and elder brother of Maharaja Madhuji Sindhia, was killed at Barwa Sagar in a battle between the Peshwa's troops and the Bundelas. The Peshwa ordered an annual payment of Rs. 10,000 as *nanuk* or blood-money to be made to Sagia Bai, the widow of the deceased, out of the collections of Barwa Sagar. She died in 1773, from which date the assignment was paid to Maharaja Madhuji Sindhia, her brother-in-law. In 1805 Maharaja Daulat Rao Sindhia transferred the assignment to Gopal Rao Bhau Chitnavis, in consideration of services performed by him, and through him it came to Khandi Rao Masurkar, the payment being continued to the Gwalior Darbar up to 1855. On the lapse of the Jhansi territory to the British Government a question arose as to the power possessed, under the terms of the grant, to alienate it upon the death of the original grantee, and as to the propriety of continuing the assignment. The Gwalior Darbar stated that the grant was made in perpetuity, but were not able to produce the original deed of assignment, which they alleged had been lost, and the question was referred to the Supreme Government for decision. By them it was ruled that though as a matter of right the Gwalior Darbar had no claim to a continuance of the pension, yet that as a question of grace and favour the payment should be continued during the pleasure of the Government from the revenue of villages in pargana Bhander, which now belong to Gwalior.

The population of Barwa Sagar in 1865 numbered 6,255 souls, which in 1901 had risen to 6,432, of whom 6,183 were Hindus, 233 Musalmans and 16 Jains. The town is administered

under Act XX of 1856, and has an average income of Rs. 700. This is derived from the usual house tax and is spent in the maintenance of a small staff of sweepers, a small force of police and in works of improvement in the town. The village is owned three-quarters by Kachhis and one-quarter by Ahirs.

BHASNEH, *Tahsil* GARAUTHA.

A village lying in 25° 33′ N. and 79° 12′ E. on the road from Gursarai to Mau, close to the point where the latter is crossed by the Jhansi-Garautha road, 36 miles from Jhansi, 8 miles from Garautha and 20 miles from Mau-Ranipur. Near the village is a small tract of reserved forest, a large tank under the management of the Irrigation department and a canal inspection bungalow. The total populaton in 1901 numbered 869 souls; and the village was given in *jagir* in 1584 A.D. by Raja Madhukar Sah of Orchha to his seventh son, Har Singh. A descendant of his built the fort of Garwai on a rocky hill some twelve miles to the north. On the outbreak of the Mutiny the Bhasneh Thakurs seized this fort and were only ejected after the British troops had cannonaded them from a neighbouring hillock. The family still retains Bhasneh. There is a local encamping-ground here.

BIJOLI, *Tahsil* JHANSI.

A small village on the Cawnpore-Saugor trunk road, lying in 25° 22′ N. and 78° 35′ E., six miles from Jhansi. The village had in 1901 a population of 896 souls, mainly consisting of Lodhis and Ahirs; and contains a small lake, approximately 70 acres in extent, which is useful for irrigation. On the embankment of the lake is a small temple, adorned with exquisite Chanderi stone work, but now falling into disrepair. Two miles to the west of the village is a railway station, on the Great Indian Peninsula railway, which derives its name from the village.

BIJROTHA, *Pargana* TALBEHAT, *Tahsil* LALITPUR.

A large agricultural village lying in 24° 57′ N. and 78° 26′ E., 18 miles north of Lalitpur, which gives its name to a railway

station on the Great Indian Peninsula railway. The village lands cover 4,889 acres, 70 per cent. of which is rock and jungle, and the inhabitants to the number of 1,520 are scattered in eight hamlets. Tradition says that the earliest inhabitants were Bhils, who were followed in turn by Gonds, Chandels and Bundelas: to the Chandels are ascribed the tank near Bijrotha proper, and a small temple. Another tradition states that the village was founded by the Singaras. About 1620 A.D. Bharat Sah, first Raja of Chanderi, granted the village, with some of the surrounding tract of country, in *jagir* to his brother, Diwan Rup. The latter's descendants still hold it, but no longer in *jagir*, the village having been resumed some ninety years ago, when that portion of the subdivision passed into the hands of Sindhia. The present representative of the family is a *darbari* and exempt from the operations of the Arms Act. The village is a purely agricultural one, and the only trade at the station, which is situated 2 miles to the south, consists of a small export of bamboos from the forest reserves of the neighbourhood. The station is connected by a good second-class approach road with the Jhansi-Lalitpur road.

BIRDHA, *Pargana and Tahsil* LALITPUR.

A large agricultural village situated in 24° 34′ N. and 78° 30′ E., 11 miles south-west of Lalitpur on the metalled road to Saugor. Unmetalled roads connect it with Jakhlon railway station, 10 miles, and Khitwans, 6 miles. The population in 1901 numbered 1,462 souls. It contains a second-class police station, post office, school and a district bungalow.

CHANDPUR, *Pargana* BALABEHAT, *Tahsil* LALITPUR.

A practically deserted village in pargana Balabehat lying in 24° 30′ N. and 78° 19′ E., at the junction of the unmetalled roads from Bant and Jakhlon to Dhourra, exactly half way between Dudhai and Deogarh. In 1901 the population only numbered 34 persons, chiefly Barhais. The Great Indian Peninsula railway cuts through the ruins of the old town, which lie for the most part to the east. In that direction are the ruins of several Jain temples, now much dilapidated. West of the raliway lie several

groups of Chandel remains. The first group is situated on the east bank of a small tank full of lotus flowers, in the centre of which is a sculptured column. The largest temple is dedicated to Mahadeo and is known as the *Sahesvara linga* with four projecting figures below. The lintel shows Mahadeva dancing the *Tandava,* and there is a spacious shrine with columns inside and a *mandapa,* in front of which on the east is a small flat-roofed fane of four pillars enshrining Nandi. The shrine stands on a portion of the embankment that projects into the tank. In the south of this is a flat-roofed temple with a porch, dedicated to Brahma, whose seated statue with his consort on his lap is inside: a peculiar feature however is that the central figures of the lintel are those of Vishnu and his wife. A second group of temples lies to the north and belongs to Varaha of the animal form, which is covered with representations of all the deities of the Hindu pantheon. On the pedestal of this figure is an inscription, dated *sambat* 1203 (A.D. 1146). It stands on what was formerly an island but is now a peninsula, and the plinths of three large temples beside smaller ones can be traced among the dèbris of beautifully carved stones and images. Among them is a large fallen column which is inscribed. A third group of temples stands on rising ground near the railway and consists of the two temples of Bolmori. These are much mutilated and in the centre of the basement of the *mandapa* there is a large hole which has been doubtless dug in search of treasure. The treasure is located by the following enigma:—

Belmori ki chaya men aur talao ki par,
Tir bhar idhar, tir bhar udhar.

This means "In the shadow of Belmori and on the other side of the tank (that is where the shadow falls), one bowshot this, and one bowshot that side." The fourth group of temples is situated close to the railway near the ruins of the town. They are much dilapidated and are dedicated to Vishnu, but there is a colossal Hanuman among the ruins. A fifth group of medium-sized ruined Vishnu temples lies between the last group and the tank, and at some distance to the north is the temple of Jhammar, of which the shrine is gone, but which was dedicated to

Vishnu, whose dancing image is seen above the entrance. Close by is the Jhammar well, and a spot is also pointed out showing the hoof prints of the horse of Raja Jhammar Deo, who is said to have flourished in Central India about the beginning of the Christian era. Numerous sculptured stones lie scattered round. Local tradition says that the Jain temples here were built by a rich Jain merchant named Parah Sah.

CHIRGAON, *Tahsil* MOTH.

A small town in 25° 35′ N. and 78° 50′ E. on the high road from Jhansi to Cawnpore, at a distance of 18 miles from Jhansi and 14 miles from Moth. Unmetalled roads run eastwards from Chirgaon to Baghaira and Gursarai and north-westwards to Simthari. Parallel to the main road runs therailway, with a station close to the town on the west, while a metalled road runs north to Bhander. Chirgaon contains a first-class police station, a combined post and telegraph office, inspection bungalow and school. There is also a large military encamping-ground near the town. Sincee the onstruction of the Indian Midland railway the bazar has become of some importance and a brisk trade is carried on, both in exports and imports. Chirgaon was formerly the headquarters of an estate held by one of the Bundela families known as the *Hasht Bhaiya*, who were petty chiefs and who received *sanads* from the British Government in 1823 A.D. They were descended from Raja Bir Singh Deo of Orchha. The estate consisted of 26 villages and used to pay a tribute of 7,000 *Nanashahi* rupees. In 1841 Rao Bakht Singh resisted the orders of the British Government and a force was sent against him. After making a show of resistance he fled, and his fort was dismantled and the estate confiscated. He was subsequently killed at Panwari in Hamirpur.

After Rao Bakht Singh's death his two sons, Rao Senapat and Rao Naunha Sahib, were each granted a pension of Rs. 400 per mensem. Both these died soon after, and the pension was continued to Rao Raghunath Singh, the son of Rao Naunha Sahib. The latter was succeeded by his own son, Rao Dalip Singh, who obtained a pension of only Rs. 250 per month, and died while a minor. After the death of Rao Dalip Singh, Basant Kunwar, widow of Rao Naunha

Sahib, Larai Dulaiya, widow of Rao Raghunath Singh, and Dip Kunwar, widow of Rao Dalip Singh, applied for pensions; but only the last received one, amounting to Rs. 100 a month, and this ceased with her death. Basant Kunwar is now dead, and Larai Dulaiya, who alone survives of the family and adopts the title of the Rani of Chirgaon, lives generally at Tikamgarh.

The population of Chirgaon in 1865 numbered 3,482 souls, which had risen in 1901 to 4,028, of whom 3,624 were Hindus, 330 Musalmans and 74 of other religions, chiefly Jains, with a few Christians. Kachhis are the prevailing Hindu caste. The town has been administered since 1870 under Act XX of 1856, and has an income of about Rs. 1,400 per annum. The income is derived mainly from a house tax supplemented by large receipts from weighmen's fees in the bazar, and is expended in the maintenance of a small staff of sweepers, for conservancy, a force of town-police and a simple works of improvement.

DELWARA, *Pargana and Tahsil* LALITPUR.

A considerable village situated 5 miles north of Lalitpur in 24°46′ N. and 78° 22′ E., on the unmetalled road to Jakhaura and one and a half mile from the railway station bearing its name. It is held in *jagir* by a large family of Bundela Rajputs, of whom some account has been given in chapter III. In 1901 the population numbered 1,048 persons. The village contains a fine tank, covering approximately 32 acres.

DEOGARH, *Pargana* BALABEHAT, *Tahsil* LALITPUR.

A celebrated place lying in 24° 32′ N. and 78° 15′ E., close to the south-western limit of the subdivision, 19 miles from Lalitpur and seven from Jakhlon, with which it is connected by two and a half miles of unmetalled district road and five of forest track. The present village, which is an insignificant one with only 113 inhabitants, chiefly Jains and Saherias, lies on low ground close to the Betwa river, which at this point makes a sweep to the west. On high ground some 300 feet above this rises the old fort of Karnali, below the south wall of which the Betwa flows in a singularly picturesque bed. The hill is surrounded by a wall of circumvallation running along the top of the slope on the west, at

a short distance inland from the scarp onthe north and across the neck on the east side. On the west is a sloped ascent leading up to a gateway; and to the north-east lies a group of sixteen Jain temples, some in fair preservation and finely sculptured. On the south side are two staircases, called the Rajghati and Nahrghati, cut out of the solid rock, along which there are several carvings. There is also a cave excavated out of the cliff known as the Siddh Gupha with a staircase leading down to it from the top of the hill. In the plain below is situated a small forest bungalow, and further to the north the Dasavatara temple or Sagar Mor.

The Dasavatara, the Siddh Gupha and the Nahrghati are of Gupta origin. The first of these is so called from the ten incarnations of Vishnu which were originally depicted on the temple and from the rock-cut well (*sagar*) close by. It is medium-sized, square in plan, and faces west; and is built of large blocks of dressed stone, very red in colour. Originally a colonnaded verandah surrounded it on all four sides, but only four pillars now remain and these exhibit exquisite workmanship. In front of the temple on the left side of the flight of steps stands a tall, flat pillar with rounded edges known as the *Hathivand*, where elephants were chained, of which the original purpose is not clear. The *sikhara* or shrine of the temple is mostly gone. The entrance is finely carved; on the three other sides are three large niches enshrining three incarnations of Vishnu. The southern niche contains the bas-relief of Narayana reclining on the serpent of eternity, with Lakshmi his wife at his feet: below are the five Pandavas and Draupadi, and above Brahma, Mahadeva, Indra and other deities riding their *vahanas*. The eastern niche exhibits the two brothers Rama and Lakshman, and the northern represents Vishnu riding his favourite bird *garur*. The Nahrghati is so called from a stream of water which drips down the hill during the rainy season. There are several niches along it, and a Gupta inscription in which the name of the reigning king is lost. The Siddh Gupha is an irregularly hollowed-out cave, with three openings formed by two rude pillars supporting a low roof. Outside the rock is a short Gupta inscription, a later inscription recording that Raja Bir conquered Kurar in *sambat* 1345 (A.D. 1288), and an even later one, dated *sambat* 1806 but otherwise illegible. It was here that Dhur-

mangad Singh, ancestor of the Jakhlon Bundelas, retired and died in 1794 A.D. Deogarh was at that time a considerable place and owned by that family, who built the neighbouring fort of Datia.

The ruined temple of Varaha on the south-east and the rock sculptures close by which are cut in the scarp of the hill are probably of a later period. The Jain temples on the east appear to belong to different dates. The principal one consists of an open-pillared hall or arcade 42′ 3″ square, with six rows of six pillars. In the middle of the hall a platform, raised between the four central pillars with a back wall towards the outside, is covered with a large collection of naked Jain figures. In front of the hall at a distance of 16½ feet there is a detached portico or canopy supported on four massive pillars. On one of these General Cunningham discovered a very valuable and interesting inscription of Raja Bhoja Deva, dated *sambat* 919 or the year 784 of the Sake era. Along the Rajghati a neatly engraved inscription of eight lines records the fact that it was built by Vatsa Raja, the minister of Kirtivarma Chandel, after whom the fort was named Kirtigiri Durga. It is dated *sambat* 1154 (A.D. 1097). The fort wall whether it is the orginal structure or only rebuilt by the Chandels, is about 15 feet in thickness, is built of loose stones without cement and has a loopholed parapet and square bastions, that project about 20 feet. The other Jain temples are unimportant, but one has an inscription stating that it was built by one Nanhe Singhai in *sambat* 1493 (A.D. 1436). The only other remains lie to the north, beyond the village site, close to the river and consist of *sati* stones and small Bundela temples. Deogarh is intimately associated with the Jains, who still worship here. The local tradition is that Deopat and Kheopat were two Jain brothers who possessed the philosopher's stone. By this means they amassed great riches and built the fort and the town with the temples. Hearing of this stone the king of the period came and besieged the town, whereupon the philosopher's stone was thrown into the deep waters of the Betwa. Deogarh was last besieged and captured in 1811 by Colonel Baptiste Filose on behalf of Sindhia after three days' fighting. It came into possession of the British with Chanderi, and has since then remained an inconsiderable village.

DHAMNA, *Tahsil* JHANSI.

A small village with a total population of 642 persons, chiefly Kurmis, lying in 25° 29′ N. and 78° 51′ E. at a distance of 16 miles north-east of Jhansi on the Garautha road. The village was noted for the residence of a Bundela Rajput of good family, known as the Diwan Mansubdar. The share in the estate belonging to one Rao Parichhat, his cousin, was confiscated at the Mutiny for rebellion and conferred upon him; and his property consists of the five villages of Dhamna, Basanpura, Singpura, Dabra and Dhawara, held on *ubari* tenure, and Bharaul, which is revenue free. The village formerly contained a police station, but has now only an outpost. The family of Bundelas is much impoverished, and they now only retain two annas of the estate, the rest having been sold to a Bania.

DHAURI SAGAR, *Pargana* MADAORA, *Tahsil* MAHRONI.

A small village lying in 24° 18′ N. and 78° 54′ E., 42 miles south-east of Lalitpur and 8 miles south-east of Madaora. It is interesting as the scene in 1668 A.D. of a defeat of the imperial forces by Chhatarsal. The village, which has a population of 429 persons, chiefly Ahirs, was formerly held on *ubari* tenure by the ancestors of its present owners, who are Bundelas, and is prettily situated overlooking an extensive lake, which covers 187 acres.

DHOURRA, *Pargana* BALABEHAT, *Tahsil* LALITPUR.

A village on the Vindhyan plateau, lying in 24° 26′ N. and 78° 20′ E., 18 miles south of Lalitpur. The village had in 1901 a population of 454 souls and gives its name to a railway station on the Great Indian Peninsula railway. From this there is a considerable export traffic in wood from the neighbouring jungles and of stone from the quarries at Hardari, two miles distant. The station is also an important one for the export of baled hay in years of famine. The name of the village is explained by the following local legend. Some thousands of years ago when Raja Jara Singh of Patna invaded Muttra, Krishn Chand and his brother Bala Ram escaped and took refuge in the jungles near Dhourra. The fugitives were pursued and found near the site of the village. In their eagerness to catch them the chiefs of the

Raja's army themselves ran after them, and hence the village derived its name from *dhorai*, the running of the chiefs. In 1683 Dhourra was granted in *jagir* by the Raja of Chanderi to Diwan Narainju, ancestor of the Jakhlon Rajputs, by whom it is still held in *jagir*.

DONGRA, *Pargana* BALABEHAT, *Tahsil* LALITPUR.

A large and purely agricultural village in 24° 27′ N. and 78° 30′ E., 19 miles south of Lalitpur, on the Betna-Balabehat road. It is held in *jagir* by a large number of Bundelas, of whom some account is given in chapter III. A market is held in the village every Monday. The population in 1901 numbered 1,312 persons, consisting for the most part of Kachhis and Jains.

DUDHAI, *Pargana* BALABEHAT, *Tahsil* LALITPUR.

A decayed village situated on the second Vindhyan scarp in 24° 25′ N. and 78° 23′ E. It lies 20 miles due south of Lalitpur, with which it is connected by four routes, *vid* Jakhlon and Dhourra, Bant, Pali, and Betna and Maholi: only the first and last are practicable for carts. Dhourra railway station lies 4½ miles to the west. The village contains a third-class police station, post office and a magnificent tank, covering 139 acres, known as the Ram Sagar. The site, which is now a miserable collection of tumbled-down huts, inhabited mainly by Dhimars and containing a population of 184 souls, must in times gone by have been a place of considerable importance; to this the extensive ruins testify. The latter support the tradition that Dudhai was the chief town of this portion of the subdivision and probably of a tract now beyond its borders, the dividing line being drawn east and west through Lalitpur. The northern portion was named Haraspur, and in confirmation of the tradition the people refer to the names of two different descriptions of rent called *Haraspuri* and *Dudhai*. It is now owned by a Bundela family of Bant. The lake is an artificial sheet of water formed by a massive embankment thrown across the Mungha *nala*: a square well below it in which the water gushes upwards is called *chua* or the spring. The ruins were ascribed in the old gazetteer to the Gonds, but the existing remains are certainly Chandel. Whether

the Chandels overlaid earlier Gond buildings with their own or not cannot be determined, but this is not improbable. The chief group of temples lies close to the village on the east of the tank and contains two temples with tall spires known as the *Sarahi Marhiya* or "tall temples." The larger of the two or greater *Surang* is a double temple planned back to back, having two shrines, two vestibules and two porticoes. It is in a ruinous condition, its destruction being ascribed to fire: but sufficient indications remain to show that it was extensively decorated. The lesser *Surang* is a temple of the trinity, Brahma, Vishnu and Mahadeva, having three shrines south-west and north, with its entrance to the east. All the existing inscriptions at Dudhai are in this temple, and they are six in number. They record the fact that it was built by Devalabdhi, grandson of Yasovarma Chandel, which fixes its date at approximately 1000 A.D. and puts beyond all doubt the fact that Dudhai was an important place in the Chandel kingdom. At the same period the place is described by Abu Rihan as a "large town." The second group of temples lies half a mile to the south-west and is collectively known as the *Bania ka Barat.* They are attributed as usual to the Jain brothers Deopat and Kheopat but are in an extremely ruinous condition. On the the spur to the north, now embedded in dense jungle, is pointed out the site of Buri Dudhai, and half-way between them is a ruined Jain temple and a place called the *Akhara.* The latter is a circular structure of low and flat-roofed cells, which appear to have been originally some 40 in number, but of which now only 17 remain. On the east of the tank and hidden in the forest is a middle-sized half-ruined temple called Ban Baba (from Vamana, the dwarf incarnation of Vishnu). Of other interesting remains there is in the main group of buildings a small Varaha shrine with the figure of a boar under a four-pillared canopy, a second boar statue on the banks of the lake, and a small one near the Varaha temple known as the *Bachha.* West of the mouldering remains that mark the site of Buri Dudhai is a colossal statue of Narsinghji carved on the face of the rock: it is 15 feet high. There appears to have been a wall surrounding the site and temples at the south-eastern end of the lake, part of which is still standing and covers an area roughly a quarter of a mile

square. It is still known as the Kot. On lower ground to the north of the tank lies a deserted village called Lidhaura, where there is a group of small temples in a ruinous condition.

There are frequent mentions of a pargana of Dudhai in *sanads* and on *sati* stones but they are of much later date than the temples: such exist at Jamunia and Piprai and are dated *samvat* 1875 and 1879. In 1618 A.D. Dudhai is mentioned as the name of a tract forming one fourth of the kingdom of Bharat Sah, Raja of Chanderi. In 1812 it was the scene of a fight between Colonel Filose and the Bundelas.

ERACHH, *Tahsil* MOTH.

A town, lying in 25° 47′ N., and 79° 7′ E. situated on the right bank of the Betwa, which is here crossed by a good ferry, at a distance of 42 miles from Jhansi, on the metalled road from Gursarai to Punchh. Other roads run south to Baghaira and Bangra with branches leading to Chirgaon and north to Dhikoli. Erichh, Erachh, or Irichh possesses a third-class police station, post office, inspection bungalow, and school. There is a small bazar here, the chief articles of commerce being agricultural produce and country cloth. The latter mostly takes the form of chintz and *chunari*. These *chunaris* consist of large kerchiefs, dyed red or yellow with different coloured spots and flowers, and are worn by women as a covering for the head and shoulders. The pattern is produced solely by dyeing, small pieces of the cloth being tied up in knots and the whole dipped into the dye, so that when the knots are undone an undyed spot is left. The borders are usually dyed in colours different from those of the spots in the field. The *chunaris* of Erachh are of two qualities, coarse and fine. The town was formerly administered under Act XX of 1856, and contains a population of 2,850 persons, the principal inhabitants, as well as the owners, being Musalmans. The Village Sanitation Act (U. P. Act II of 1892) is now in force. Erachh was once a place of considerable importance, being the headquarters of a *sarkar* in the *subah* of Agra. In the suburbs stand numbers of ruined mosques and tombs, mostly constructed from Hindu materials. In the fort stands the Jama Masjid, a fine building consisting of a group of small domes

round the large central one : all of these are supported on massive columns of rubble with old Hindu pillars at the four corners. The central hall, from its size, height and the massiveness of its construction, produces a striking effect. Outside there are cloisters with pillars similar to those within. The walls and arches are of stone and brick, picked out with red, blue, yellow and green. The mosque was built in 815 *Hijri* or 1413 A.D. by Ghazi Zia-ud-din, brother of Khan Junaid, the *jagirdar* of the tract during the reign of Mahmud Shah. Apparently additions were made in the time of Aurangzeb. The fort is also constructed of Hindu materials, a small portion near the river representing the original structure. The Musalman walls, built of large stones without mortar, are also in ruins. They probably date from the time of Akbar in whose reign the Rairayan besieged and took the place, in which Bir Singh Deo, the murderer of Abul Fazl, had taken refuge. The gates number five, and on two of them are inscriptions dated 1055 *Hijri* or 1645 A.D. The other remains of Erachh are of little interest or importance. There is a *sati* pillar in the village, dated 1699 *samvat* or 1642 A.D.

On the accession of Jahangir Erachh, with the adjacent country, appears to have been in the possession of Raja Bir Singh Deo, but it was certainly lost to the Bundelas under his successor and reoccupied by the Musalmans. It was sacked and plundered by Chhatarsal towards the end of the seventeenth century, and in the time of Bahadur Shah (1707—1713 A.D.) was apparently consigned to that chieftain. When Farrukhsiyar obtained the throne it was given in *jagir* to Muhammad Khan Bangash; but it appears to have been lost by him and it then again fell into the hands of Chhatarsal, from whom it descended to Hardi Sah. It does not, however, appear to have been long retained by him, for in 1757 A.D. it certainly formed a portion of the Maratha possessions from whom it ultimately passed to the British with the rest of the Jhansi state. The British army under the Marquis of Hastings encamped here in 1817 A.D. ; and it was at Erachh that the British force sent from Banda to operate against Amir Khan and the Pindaris took up its position. In the first advance Amir Khan was driven back to Malthon, and the British force, thinking that he had altogether retired, returned

to Banda. Amir Khan, however, soon come back, and made Erachh his headquarters in his expeditions again Kunch and Kalpi.

GARAUTHA, *Tahsil* GARAUTHA.

This village, which gives its name to the tahsil, whose headquarters it is, lies in 25° 35′ N. and 79° 19′ E. on the banks of the Lakheri *nala*, about seven miles from the Dhasan river. It is connected with Jhansi by a partially metalled road, which leaves the trunk road from Cawnpore to Jhansi at Baragaon and continues across the district in an easterly direction as far as Garautha. Another road runs south to Mau, a distance of 22 miles, while others lead to Moti Katra, Rath, Gursarai, Kakarwai and Dakhnesar: the portion to Gursarai is metalled. The nearest railway station is Mau; and during the rains the inhabitants are compelled to use this route, in order to reach Jhansi, owing to the impracticability of the roads. The place contains, besides the tahsil, a first-class police station, post office and school. The tahsil is situated near the site, but the village is largely surrounded by jungle in a wild undulating tract cut up by ravines. The population of Garautha in 1865 numbered 1,748 persons, which in 1901 had risen to 1878, out of which 1,634 were Hindus. Chamars are the most numerous caste.

GARAUTHA, *Pargana and Tahsil.*

The Garautha tahsil lies between the parallels of 25° 23′ and 25° 49′ north latitude and 79° 1′ and 79° 25′ east longitude, and forms the north-eastern corner of the Jhansi district. Including the Gursarai estate, the bulk of which falls within the pargana, the tahsil has a total area of 297,942 acres or 465·51 square miles, distributed over 173 villages divided into 327 *mahals*. It forms a roughly oblong block of land, less intermixed with independent territory than the other parganas of Jhansi proper. The Dhasan forms the eastern boundary; the river Betwa the northern; the western frontier marches with those of the Moth tahsil and Orchha territory; and on the south lies tahsil Mau. Of the whole area 197,976 acres or 309·34 square miles, distributed

over 120 villages belong to the Garautha pargana, and the remainder to the Gursarai estate.

The physical features of the tract are determined by the rivers which bound it. The whole country is intersected by a network of *nalas*, which have cut back into the level expanses of soil in the centre, forming strips of ever-increasing width of broken *rakar* land along their banks, and drain into the Betwa and Dhasan. The chief of these are the Lakheri and Chaich: the former is a perennial stream, which, with its numerous tributaries, drains the whole of the southern portion of the pargana, while the latter drains the north-east and a narrow strip across the centre. Of those that flow direct into the Betwa none are considerable, the largest being the Sasur and Sarel. The Sasur is noteworthy in that it takes its rise in numerous channels running nearly parallel to each other, which have eroded the whole tract lying to the west and north-west of Gursarai town, until the land has assumed a configuration comparable to a deep sea ground swell, an effect not noticeable elsewhere in the pargana: further north it runs in a curious narrow bed with steep banks, a miniature cañon, which forms a considerable obstacle to wheeled traffic. The wild, broken country lying near the junction of the Betwa and Dhasan presents a picture of utter desolation, and is locally known as the *Ghar*. The general trend of all the lesser streams is from south-west to north-east, in a similar direction to that followed by the long line of hills from Katera to Bhasnch which cut across the south-western portion of the tahsil. Besides this range there are several isolated peaks to the north of Gursarai town.

The pargana, except along the Betwa and the Dhasan, is almost entirely black soil, eroded into *rakar* along the *nalas*. This black soil consists of highlying, treeless stretches of *mar*, weakening to *kabar* and finally to *rakar* as the land slopes sharply down to these drainage channels. The large number of the latter precludes the possibility of any of these expanses being of considerable size: the largest and also the best lie in the Lakheri-Dhasan and Patrahi-Lakheri doabs in the south, and along the watershed between the Lakheri and Chaich across the centre of the pargana. The rest of the black soil tract is more

cut up, and there are no wide expanses of *mar* or of any single class of soil: the villages are generally grouped round each block of black soil, and each village possesses its share of varying size. The riverside villages in the north present a different feature. They depend mainly on light soil, generally *parua*, which produces excellent crops and pays high rents where it is subject to alluvial action, but it is otherwise a rather weak though soft and easily worked soil, merging sometimes in the Betwa-side villages into a yellowish soft *kabar* quite distinct in appearance and character from the *kabar* which borders on the *mar* in the black soil villages. The little so-called *mar* found with this *kabar* shares the same character.

The sites are, with rare exceptions, built distant from the best ground, usually on river or *nala* banks, owing to the unhealthiness of black soil and the depth of the water level. The population is sparse, and the village lands usually very extensive; while, owing to the width of the waste belts that frequently intervene between the culturable black soil and the village site, the latter is sometimes as much as three miles distant from the former. This naturally does not conduce to good cultivation, and it also prevents the eradication of *kans*, which springs up readily in any year favourable to its growth. Carefully manured, cultivated, and irrigated *tarctas* are rare, though a number of villages have a few manured fields in the immediate neighbourhood of the site. The belts of broken land along the *nalas* are nearly all unculturable except for occasional patches of lowlying *parua* on the very banks of the streams and some scattered plots of less broken and more level *patri*, where the poorer autumn crops can be grown. They are generally clad with rough scrub of little or no value and afford harbour to wild animals, which do considerable damage to the standing crops.

Garautha is a poor and broken tract of country. It suffers more and more, as time goes on, from erosion, and its development has never been in any sense high. Of the total area of the tahsil, some 64,070 acres or 21·5 per cent. are barren, being covered with water, occupied by sites, buildings and the like or unculturable. Besides this area there is a very large extent of

culturable land whose area fluctuates with that of the cultivation, and which in 1902-03, when the new settlement was made, amounted to 115,099 acres or nearly 40 per cent. of the total area. This total includes nearly 40,000 acres of culturable waste and some 65,000 acres of old fallow, the remainder being mostly new fallow, whose area is never certain and rose as high as 70,111 acres in 1907-08. The cultivated area is marked by violent and rapid changes. In the Garautha pargana, excluding Gursarai, it varied in the decade from 1892 and 1902 between 100,254 acres in 1903 and 68,716 acres in 1894-05, the average being 80,897 acres. Over the whole tahsil it reached a total of 130,628 in 1906-07, but fell to only 71,357 acres in 1907-08. The same fluctuations mark the relative areas devoted to the different harvests, but normally some 75 per cent. of the cultivated area is devoted to *kharif* and only 25 per cent. to *rabi* crops. The twice cropped area is the smallest of any tahsil in the district and averages a little over 1,600 acres, while the *zaid* harvest little exceeds 60 acres. The staple crops are *juar*, cotton and *til* in the *kharif*, and gram in the *rabi*; the extent to which the latter is mixed with wheat depending entirely on the season.

The standard of cultivation is generally poor. Irrigation is not possible in most parts of the tahsil; but even where there are wells available for irrigation they are not used for that purpose, unless there happens to be a Kachhi in the village: while the better classes of cultivators, such as Lodhis and Kurmis, seldom irrigate to the same extent as they do elsewhere in the district. The irrigated area averages only 338 acres. At the recent settlement, excluding Gursarai, 23 per cent. of the holdings area was in the hands of occupancy or exproprietary tenants, 34 per cent. in those of non-occupancy tenants and over 37 per cent. was held by proprietors themselves. Of the 327 *mahals* 40 were held in single *zamindari*, 118 in joint *zamindari*, 16 in perfect, 151 in imperfect *pattidari*, and two were *bhaiyachara*. The chief proprietary castes are Rajputs and Brahmans, and there are three families holding *ubari* estates in the pargana, of which those of Gursarai and Kakarwai are the largest. Apart from these there are no large hereditary owners, with the exception perhaps of the large body of Parihar Rajputs, who own the

riparian villages at the junction of the Betwa and Dhasan. The Mahajans Milap Chand of Jhansi and Jagannath of Garautha have, however, acquired considerable estates. The small estate of Khairokhar is held *ubari* by a Parihar Rajput, Randhir Singh: it was granted by the Marathas for military services to his grandfther, who belonged to the reigning family of the Alipura state, and has been continued by the British Government.

The population of the tahsil is both small and badly distributed. It steadily increased from 1872, when it numbered 85,202, to 87,897 in 1881, and 88,926 in 1891. In 1901 it was found to have fallen to 66,963, a decrease of no less than 24·5 per cent., which must be attributed to the severity of famine and a serious epidemic of cholera which preceded it. The average density only amounts to 144 persons per square mile. Classified according to religions there were 64,257 Hindus, 2,518 Musalmans, 166 Jains, five Christians and one Sikh. Among the Hindus, Brahmans are the most numerous caste, amounting to 9,467 persons; and after them come Chamars 8,817, Ahirs 6,495, Rajputs 5,001, Kurmis 4,809, Kachhis 3,964 and Koris 3,297. Other castes with over two thousand members apiece were Nais, Gadariyas and Banias, while Lodhis numbered 1,678. Among Rajputs the best represented clans are Parihars, Dikhits, Gaurs, Bundelas, Sengars, Bais and Chauhans. Among the Musalmans, who form an insignificant portion of the population, Behnas and Sheikhs predominate. The tahsil is practically wholly agricultural in character, and the entire population is dependent either on agriculture directly or is connected with the trade in agricultural produce: there are no manufactures of any importance.

There is only one large town in the tahsil, namely Gursarai, which in 1901 had a population of 4,304 persons; and there are only 10 other villages with a population of over 1,000 souls, out of which Bamor and Aioni alone exceed 1,500. Out of the 173 villages 20 are uninhabited, and only six have outlying hamlets. There is an almost total lack of markets, for even Gursarai has now an inconsiderable trade. The important bazars that serve the tract are all outside the tahsil, namely Rath, Harpalpur, Mau-Ranipur, Tori

Fatehpur, Chirgaon and Kotra Saiyidnagar. Some villages, however, deal direct with Kunch, and some with Banias at Erachh, Moth or Punchh.

The tahsil is fairly well equipped with means of communication. No railway touches it, but a metalled road runs from Punchh, *viâ* Gursarai, to Mau across it, and the road to Jhansi is being metalled. The rest of the roads, except the small one which connects Garautha and Gursarai, are unmetalled and, though they are good fair-weather lines of communication, become impassable for cart traffic in the rains. At that season the pargana is, except for the narrow strip served by the metalled road, isolated from the world. Even where there are roads, numerous unbridged *nalas* are present to obstruct communication.

In the days of Akbar the tract was probably included in the *mahal* Pandor of the *Sarkar* of Erachh; but much of it was directly or indirectly in the hands of Bundela chiefs, who gave large tracts to their kinsmen in *jagir*. When the district fell into the hands of the Marathas a large portion of it was comprehended, as it has since remained, in the estate of Gursarai. The rest, 122 villages, was assigned to the British in 1842 by Raja Gangadhar Rao in part payment of half the cost of the Bundelkhand Legion, and was placed under the superintendent of Jalaun till the Jhansi district was formed in 1854. When the Pandwaha tahsil was abolished in 1866 Garautha received some villages from it, and took its present shape. The demand assessed at the various settlements, including that recently fixed on the fluctuating system, will be found in the appendix.*

The only important archæological remains in the tahsil are a good Chandel temple at Tharro and a group of lakelets at Haibatpura. There are numbers of tanks and forts also, the the best example of the latter being the fort at Garwai, which was built by the Bundela family of Bhasneh. Garautha forms a revenue and criminal subdivision usually in the charge of a full-powered officer on the district staff. For purposes of police administration its villages are distributed over the circles of Garautha, Kakarwai, Pandwaha, Gursarai and Ghat Lahchura.

* Appendix, tables IX and X.

GARHMAU, *Tahsil* JHANSI.

A small village lying in 25° N. and 78° 41′ E., with a population which in 1901 numbered 575 persons and chiefly consisted of Brahmans. There is a railway station on the Great Indian Peninsula railway with a small traffic in agricultural produce; and the village has recently attained some importance from the combined irrigation scheme of which a description has been given in chapter II. The village lies some six and a half miles north-east of Jhansi city, with which it is connected by an unmetalled road, and is owned by resident Gaur Brahmans. A canal inspection bungalow has recently been erected in the place.

GEORA GUNDHERA, *Pargana* TALBEHAT, *Tahsil* LALITPUR.

A considerable village lying on the Betwa, in 25° 9′ N. and 78° 32′ E., 36 miles north of Lalitpur and ten miles east-north-east of Talbehat. It is surrounded by jungles and hills and situated five miles from Jharar-*ghat* on the Jhansi-Lalitpur road. The village had in 1901 a population of 1,071 persons, mainly Saherias and Jains, and consists of two separate hamlets called Geora and Gundhera, about one mile apart. They overlook Kharki-Garh island, an isolated portion of Orchha territory. Gundhera is the larger of the two sites and contains a Bundela fort, which was captured by Colonel Filose in 1811 A.D. With the neighbouring *mauza* of Karokhet, it forms an *ubari* estate; this was given to the ancestors of the present *ubaridar*, who resides in Geora, in 1830. The original owners were Ahirs. The village contains three small tanks.

GIRAR, *Pargana* MADAORA, *Tahsil* MAHRONI.

This village lies in 24° 19′ N. and 78° 56′ E. and is picturesquely situated on a hill overlooking the Dhasan, in the extreme south-east corner of the subdivision. It is 44 miles from Lalitpur, with which it is connected by a an unmetalled road, and at present contains a second-class police station and a post office. In 1901 the population numbered 157 persons, the chief Hindu caste being Chamars; but the village was formerly much larger and of considerably greater importance. It suffered heavily in the

famine of 1896-97 losing more than half of its inhabitants; while half the population now reside in the hamlet of Hanumangarh. There are some handsome but ruined temples in the village, and on the top of the hill to the west are remains of old fortifications built of loose rocks, said to have been made by Gonds.* Girar, with three neighbouring villages, is held in *jagir* by a family of Bundelas, and is a collecting depôt for forest produce.

GURSARAI, *Tahsil* GARAUTHA.

A town lying in 25° 37′ N. and 79° 12′ E. on the road from Mau to Punchh at a distance of 40 miles from Jhansi. A metalled road connects it with Garautha, a distance of 8 miles, and unmetalled roads with Moth, Chirgaon and Saiyidnagar. The place lies on a level watershed between the Betwa and the Dhasan. About half the houses are built of brick. The principal roadway varies in width and has an irregular course, passing from the eastern suburb to the fort, which stands on the west of the town, and forming towards the middle a small open marketplace. The shops are double storeyed with tiled verandahs. The fort is quite near to the town, and is built on a rocky hill; it is an imposing-looking structure, with great outer masonry walls and fortifications, the buildings high raised to over 100 feet. Its northern side is bordered by a large tank with built-up edges forming steps to go down to the water, the brickwork broken in places, but generally in good repair. This tank was repaired in 1907, partly as a famine relief work. Westward of the fort there is a little walled town called Narayanpur, which appears to form part of the fort property and is used as a residence by the Rao's servants and retainers.

Gursarai contains a third-class police station, post office and school. There is a market here, and the town derives its name from the fact that its trade was formerly chiefly in sugar, which was imported from Mirzapur and Rath in Hamirpur. The place also possesses an inspection bungalow, and though there is no regular military encamping-ground, there is a good site for one about two hundred yards east of the town, which lies on the

* These form three circular forts, some 30 feet in diameter, built up inside so as to have a level floor, and breast-high all round.

route from Nowgong to Orai. The population in 1865 numbered 7,759 persons; but since that time there has been a steady decline, for in 1901 there were but 4,304 inhabitants, of whom 3,838 were Hindus, 403 Musalmans and 63 Jains. The inhabitants are for the most part agriculturists.

Gursarai is the principal place of residence and gives its name to an *ubari* estate in the possession of a family of Dakshini Brahmans of which some account has been given in chapter III. The descendants of the family are shown in the following genealogical tree:—

NUR SINGH PANDIT.

- Gobind Rao (Jalaun).
- Bala Rao (Gursarai).
  - Dinkar Rao Ana.
    - Balkrishn Rao, died 1840
      - Atma Ram Baba, adopted.
    - Kesho Rao, died 1880.
      - Sheo Ram Tantia (rebel).
      - Jai Ram
        - Madho Rao (adopted).
      - Atma Ram Baba.
      - Sita Ram Rao.
      - Balkishn Rao.
      - Krishn Rao.
      - Raghunath Rao.

The estate comprises 65 villages, all except 18 of which are situated in tahsil Garautha. It was continued to Raja Kesho Rao in 1852 subject to the payment of Rs. 22,500 annually as quit rent. On the outbreak of the Mutiny in Jalaun the British officer in charge of that district was forced to retire to Agra, and Kesho Rao assumed charge on behalf of the British Government and maintained order till the end of October 1857. He was then seized by the Gwalior mutineers and maltreated, after which he retired to Gursarai. When Sir Hugh Rose reached Jhansi, Kesho Rao at once communicated with him and together with his sons gave valuable help in the subsequent operations. The title of Raja Bahadur and other rewards were granted for these services; and Raja Kesho Rao was made an honorary magistrate with civil and revenue powers and a limited jurisdiction in his own estates. He died in 1880, and the special powers vested in the Raja were

cancelled. In 1895 serious disputes led to the cancellation of the *ubari* grant also and the assessment of a full revenue demand, in default of which direct management was assumed till 1902, when in consideration of the adjustment of the family disputes the *ubari* grant was restored.

The inferior tenures in the estate are somewhat complicated. In every village except two (Deora Saran and Jujharpura), there are bodies of men known as *khalsadars* and locally as *thekadars*. Their ancestors were originally managers or farmers, collecting rent on behalf of the superior proprietors: their rights became hereditary and their status as under-proprietors was determined by the Board of Revenue in 1902. They hold their *khalsa* land on a payment of one and a half time the revenue to the superior proprietors. They also hold as absolute owners land known as *haqdari*. This area was originally held rent-free owing to some hereditary right or in part consideration of their management of the *khalsa* land, and has been continuously so held since. On this they pay the ordinary revenue and cesses and a *haq-lambardari* of four per cent. to the superior proprietors who collect. Apart from these *khalsadars*, there are in some villages regular under-proprietary holdings, held subject to the payment of the ordinary revenue and 10 per cent. *malikana*, and usually also of ordinary cesses. There are also many miscellaneous proprietary or quasi-proprietary holdings held on various payments, some fixed and some dependent on the revenue. *Zabti* land is land originally granted rent-free by the superior proprietors but since resumed by them and now managed direct as ordinary *zamindari* land with no intermediate lessee or under-proprietary rights between the proprietors and tenants. There are *zabti khatas* in 58 villages in the estate.

When the estate was restored to the family, in 1902, the *ubari* demand of Rs. 25,000 was temporarily reduced to Rs. 20,000 for three years. At the recent settlement in 1906 it was found that the assets of the estate had increased but little since 1902, and the reduced demand of Rs. 20,000 was sanctioned for a further period of five years or up till the year 1911 A.D. At the present time the Village Sanitation Act (U. P. II of 1892) is in force. The Rao is permitted to collect an octroi cess according to

a fixed schedule, under Act III of 1901, on condition that Rs. 858 per annum from the income of the estate are spent on conservancy and public works: with this sum a small conservancy staff is maintained and petty improvements are carried out.

HARASPUR, *Pargana* BANSI, *Tahsil* LALITPUR.

A village lying in 24° 55′ N. and 78° 28′ E., four miles northwest of Bansi and 16 miles north of Lalitpur. It is prettily situated, two miles west of the Jhansi-Saugor road, in the centre of a large tract of hill and reserved forest, and overlooks a small tank covering about 15 acres. Tradition says that it was the chief town of the northern half of the subdivision in the time of the Gonds and Chandels, but, with the exception of the embankment of the existing tank and a much longer though broken embankment a mile further west, there are no ruins ascribable to the Chandels. That it was formerly a place of importance, however, is clear from the fact that it was bestowed by Raja Rudr Pratap of Orchha on his son Prag Das, in *jagir*, in 1531 A.D., and in 1618 A.D. it is mentioned as comprising one-fourth of Bharat Sah's kingdom. The village had in 1901 a population of 1,002 persons, chiefly Rajputs.

JAKHLON, *Pargana and Tahsil* LALITPUR.

A village lying in 24° 33′ N. and 78° 19′ E., 12 miles southwest of Lalitpur. It contains a first-class police station, post office and school, and in 1901 had a population of 1,388 persons. It is connected with Lalitpur, Dhourra, Bant and Birdha by unmetalled roads, and a small metalled approach road, one and a half miles long, leads from it to a railway station on the Great Indian Peninsula railway which bears its name. A weekly market is held here on Sundays. The place has now lost much of its former importance but is still the chief residence of one section of the Jakhlon Bundelas, who established themselves here in 1773 A.D. under their ancestor Dhurmangad Singh: the family still hold the village in *jagir*. In 1800 it was attacked by the Marathas under Balaji Rao, son of the governor of Saugor, and in 1811-12 was captured by Colonel Filose on behalf of Sindhia.

JAKHAURA, *Pargana* Bansi, *Tahsil* Lalitpur.

A considerable village in 24° 55′ N. and 78° 20′ E., 17 miles north-north-west of Lalitpur, with which it is connected by an unmetalled road. Similar roads connect it with Rajghat on the road to Chanderi (12 miles), Bansi (10 miles), Talbehat (14 miles) and Kotra (5 miles.) The village is prettily situated below the embankment of a large tank, covering approximately 71 acres, and is a purely agricultural one. A weekly market is held on Thursdays; and it contains a first-class police station, post office and school; while the Village Sanitation Act (U. P. II of 1892) is also in force.

Five miles to the east is a railway station on the Great Indian Peninsula railway from Jhansi to Itarsi which takes its name from the village. In 1901 the population numbered 2,398 persons, the chief Hindu caste being Chamars.

JHANSI *City*.

The municipality, cantonment and administrative head-quarters of the district and tahsil of the same name lie in 25° 27′ N. and 78° 35′ E., on the road from Cawnpore to Saugor, and on the Great Indian Peninsula railway, 799 miles by rail from Calcutta and 702 miles from Bombay. From it metalled roads lead to Datia, Gwalior and Agra on the north-west; to Cawnpore and Orai on the north-east, the road to Garautha leaving this route at Baragaon some eight miles away from the city; to Sipri on the west; to Lalitpur and Saugor on the south; and to Mau and Nowgong on the east. The railway station is an important junction, where the two branches of the rail from Cawnpore and Agra unite, to proceed onwards to Itarsi; while the Manikpur section leads eastwards towards Mau, Harpalpur, Mahoba, Banda and Karwi: and there is a number of unmetalled roads which radiate in directions unserved by metalled roads.

Population.

Owing to the fact that the city did not come into the possession of the British till 1886 there are no materials for forming an accurate estimate of the population till the census of 1891. In 1872 it was estimated that the inhabitants of the town numbered some 30,000 persons, which in 1881 had risen to

82,987. After the cession it was ascertained in 1891 that there were 53,779 persons in the place; and in 1901 this number was found to have risen to 55,724, of which 25,946 were females, Jhansi being eighteenth on the list of cities in the United Provinces. Of the population recorded as residing within the municipality 37,157 were Hindus, 9,867 were Musalmans, 450 Christians, 207 Jains and 200 of unspecified religions: while in cantonments there were 3,872 Hindus, 2,116 Musalmans and 1,855 others, chiefly Christians. The Hindu element is made up of representatives of a great variety of castes, the chief being Brahmans, Koris, Kachhis, Banias and Chamars with over 2,000 members apiece; and Telis, Kahars, Kayasths and Ahirs, all of which occurred in numbers exceeding 1,000. Among the Musalmans Sheikhs largely predominate, followed by Pathans, Saiyids, Bhangis, Kanjars, Behnas and Bhishtis. The occupations of the people are necessarily very varied. Chief among them comes the supply and manufacture of material substances, accounting for 32·96 per cent. of the population, including the preparation and supply of articles of food and drink and textile industries. Of the rest 20 per cent. were dependent on personal and domestic service; 16·45 per cent. on general labour; 13·7 per cent. were employed in commerce, transport and storage, and 9·2 were engaged in agriculture or allied pursuits, the remaining occupations being very scantily represented.

Administration. The city is administered by a municipal board, to which reference has already been made in chapter IV. There too will be found mention of the cantonment and of the committee by which its affairs are managed, as also of the medical and educational institutions. In the same place some account has been given of the waterworks and the drainage system, and repetition is unnecessary.

History. From the fact that Jhansi never attained a position of importance till the time of the Marathas, the references to it in the body of this work are few, and it will be necessary here to gather together the somewhat scanty materials that remain for a reconstruction of its history. The city, which is one of the few walled towns left in the United Provinces, is said to have had its origin about 1553 A.D., when two Ahirs, Birsa and Asole,

came from the west and built some huts under the Bangra hill (on which the fort now stands) for convenience in watching their herds. The site, which was then covered with jungle, was at the time included in the village of Lahrgird, and fell within the dominions of the Raja of Orchha. In 1613 A.D. the famous Bir Singh Deo of Orchha built a fort on the Bangra hill, the part of the works dating from his time being known as the Manj Mahal. It was one of the fifty-two *garhis* or forts, which the Raja is believed to have founded in his possessions; and Jhansi, at first a humble village, grew up round it.* The origin of the name is explained by the people living in Orchha and its neighbourhood as follows. They relate that one day, when the Raja of Jaitpur was on a visit to Raja Bir Singh Deo and both were sitting on the top of the palace of Orchha, the latter pointed out his new fort in the distance, asking the Raja of Jaitpur whether he could distinguish its outline. The Raja exclaimed "*jhain si*," meaning "I can see it like a shadow," that is, indistinctly. The fort was henceforth called Jhainsi, which in after years became corrupted into Jhansi.† After the flight and death of Raja Jujhar Singh, son of Bir Singh Deo, in the reign of Shahjahan, the fort of Jhansi fell into the hands of the Mughals; ‡ and, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, it appears probable that it was regularly garrisoned by the imperial troops under Muhammadan governors till it fell into the hands of the Marathas. The last of these governors was Mukim Khan, who held the post from 1729 to 1742 A.D., and it was a disgraced subordinate of his, one Sheikh Bulaqi, whose treachery is said to have led to the capture of the fort in the latter year by the Marathas. This worthy, on being expelled from his post of Jhansi *kamdar*, repaired to Malwa and followed the fortunes of Malhar Krishn Rao, one of Naru Shankar's generals, then on his way up north. He accompanied the invading army as far Bijoli, where he left

* Its name was then Balwantnagar. It is unknown when the change to Jhansi took place.

† There was no known Rrja of Jaitpur in Bir Singh Deo's time, and the story is probably a pure invention. The reason for the building of the fort is a mystery, considering that it is olny 6 miles from the old Bundela stronghold at Orchha.

‡ E. H. I., VII, 48.

them, and, entering Jhansi as a penitent, obtained pardon and restitution in his post. He then sent a secret message to the Maratha army, which advanced under cover of night and gained command of the fort without bloodshed by stealing through a postern which the traitor Bulaqi had left open for them on the plea of entertaining friends from the town. The Marathas then seized Mukim Khan, and made him sign a document selling them the fort.

To Naru Shankar Jhansi practically owes its existence as a large town. Before his time there had been little but a village resting at the foot of the fort; but Naru Shankar made great additions to the latter, building the stronghold known as the Shankar fort in extension of the older works, improving the town and peopling it with the residents of other places,* whom be compelled to leave their homes and settle here. After his recall in 1757, Naru Shankar was succeeded by Madhaji Gobind Antia, who embanked and gave his name to the Antia Tal, outside the walls on the Gwalior road. From 1761 to 1765 came a period of confusion. One account says that Shuja-ud-doula† got command of the fort, but that his force was ejected after a six months' stay by Anupgir Gosain, the Moth freebooter. At any rate this adventurer is mentioned as governor of the fort about this time, and is also credited with having built the handsome tank on the east of the city, known as the Lachhmi Talao: having got into debt, however, he was compelled to pawn the fort and town to the Raja of Orchha, who held it till Vishwas Rao Lachhman came in 1776 A.D. and restored Maratha rule. The next *subahdar*, Raghunath Rao Hari, made himself practically independent of Poona and ruled at Jhansi for some 24 years: he was succeeded in 1794 A.D. by his brother Sheo Rao Hari, better known as Sheo Rao Bhao. The latter between 1796 and 1814 A.D. built the existing wall of circumvallation, and, according

* One account says that most of them came from Orchha. This is highly probable, firstly because it would naturally have been the Maratha's policy to as far as possible reduce the chieftain he had lately despoiled to impotence; and secondly because we know that it was about this time that the Rajas of Orchha removed their residence to Tehri or Tikamgarh, and that Orchha rapidly declined in importance.

† Shuja-ud-doula is credited with other irruptions into Bundelkhand, but they all rest on very doubtful authority.

to one account, constructed also the Lachhmi Talao and temple. Jhansi now remained under successive chiefs till November 1853, when, on Gangadhar Rao's death, it and the territories of which it was the capital town lapsed to the British Government. Interrupted by a brief period during the Mutiny, the British occupation lasted till 1861, when the city and fort, together with parganas Pachor, Karahra and portions of Bhander and Jhansi, were handed over to Sindhia for his services during the Mutiny. For fifteen years the fort and town remained in possession of that chieftain. The historic fortress of Gwalior * and the cantonment of Morar at its foot were at this time held by a body of British troops under an arrangement concluded with the Maharaja in 1860 by Lord Canning. This agreement provided that the fortress should be restored, when this could be safely done.† In 1885 the Government of India and Her Majesty's Government in England, having decided that the time had arrived when the fortress and cantonment could be abandoned not only with safety but with advantage, His Excellency Lord Dufferin, in open darbar, surrendered the fort of Gwalior to Sindhia, in return for the payment of a sum of Rs. 15,00,000 on account of the fortifications and buildings in it and the cession with full sovereign rights of the town and fortress of Jhansi.‡

The civil station and cantonment of Jhansi, which were constructed beyond the city walls to the south and, together with the small village which sprang up in the same direction, were known as collectively Jhansi Nauabad, were, during the period from 1853 to 1861, centrally situated as regards the territory which was administered from it. West of the Betwa river stretched the tahsils of Pachor, Karahra, Bhander, Jhansi and Moth, while to the east lay portions of the last two and Garautha and Mau, including Pandwaha abolished in 1866. The exchange of territory, however, brought about by the treaty of 1861 had the effect of leaving the station on the extreme western limit of the district,

* It was first occupied by Sir High Rose in 1858 after the battle of Gwalior.

† Aitchinson's Treaties, 3rd Ed., vol. IV, p. 24. The agreement was subsequently renewed in 1864 by Lord Elgin.

‡ Sel. Rec. Foreign Dept. no. CCXVI, 1886 also, Aitch. Treat., vol. IV, p. 121.

from the bulk of which in the then existing bad state of communications, it was separated by large and, in the rains, impassable streams, as well as intruding portions of independent territory. In addition to this, this settlement was completely commanded by the fort, which, however, under a tacit arrangement with Sindhia was not strengthened or repaired in any way. The treaty of 1886 brought with it, besides the cession of the fort, a readjustment of territories; and it was at this time that the district received the 58 villages north and west of Jhansi, which now form the larger portion of the tahsil of the same name west of the Betwa.

The civil station and cantonments.

The present civil station lies close to the south of the town, and contains the memorial garden, the MacDonnell high school, the district offices, the jail, the residence of the officers attached to the district, the municipal gardens and, at a little distance towards the western limit, the spacious building constructed as a circuit house for the Lieutenant-Governor. To the south of this lies the railway station, now an important junction, and near it the old buildings used as offices by the Indian Midland railway, which had their headquarters here till the management of the line was entrusted to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company. South-west of the station are situated the rapidly extending workshops of the company. East of the railway station and south of civil lines lies the cantonment, the southern portion of which, a large open space partly used as a rest camp for troops, is separated from the rest by the railway line from Jhansi to Manikpur. The lines for troops and the houses used by the residents here are almost all of modern construction, the only building worthy of note being the Star fort which lies in an angle formed by the municipal boundary, near the collector's courthouse. This building, so called because it is in shape like a star, was the old military magazine, which was seized by the mutineers in 1857, when the Mutiny first broke out at Jhansi. Both civil lines and cantonments are situated on open and wild-looking country. Rocky outcrops are frequent, and the soil is red, stony and covered with boulders or loose stones; while the surface is undulating, intersected by small *nalas*, and, except in the neighbourhood of the oldest part of the station round about the court-house, is singularly bare of trees.

Situated on a rocky eminence and immediately overlooking the city lies the fort. The surrounding wall follows the contour of the hill, and except on the southern side runs generally on a level but little higher than the land at its base. Within it is a citadel. standing on the highest portion of the rock, in which are now the quarters of the troops holding it. In shape the fort is a rough square, with a narrow projection of similar shape close to the main entrance on the left side. It is approached by a sloping road from the south, which leads directly up to the main gate and thence into the interior citadel, which has another gate of its own. There is nothing of particular note inside the fort: on the east on the sloping rock towards the city is situated the small temple which formed the regular place of worship used by the Rani Lakshmi Bai, and on the west, also on a lower elevation than the citadel, is a small well-kept garden, and below this again the fine large well which forms an excellent supply of water. Near the well is a temple dedicated to Mahadeo, to visit which permission is granted at the *sheoratri* fertival. The walls are battlemented at the top and provided at intervals with solid bastions. The view from the summit is extensive and exceedingly fine. **The fort.**

The city walls stretch away from the fort on either side, so that the fort wall on the south-west forms a portion of them. Their total length is approximately three and a half miles, and they enclose a space of roughly one square mile, within which the city is built. The wall is pierced by ten gates known as the Khande Rao, Datia, Unao, Bhander, Baragaon, Lachhmi, Saugor, Orchha, Sainyar and Jhirnan *Darwazas*, whose positions are sufficiently indicated by their names. Of these the Bhander gate is completely closed and the Jhirman gate completely open; but all the others still have wooden doors and a police outpost is situated close by. There are also four entrances, generally known as *khirkis*. These are the Ganpatgir-ki-khirki, between the Khanderao and Datia gates, Alighol-ki-khirki, between the Unao and Datia gates, Sujan Khan-ki-khirki between the disused Bhander (which it replaces) and Baragaon gates, and the Saugor Khirki between the Lachhmi and Saugor gates. Between the Sainyar and Jhirnan gates is the breach in the walls made by Sir Hugh Rose's batteries in 1858; this has not been repaired **The city.**

and affords means of ingress and egress. The central road in the city is that which runs from the Datia gate eastwards to the Lachhmi gate, and includes within it the main *chauk* and bazar of the city. This is intersected at right angles by two broad roads, which lead from the road under the fort towards the Unao gate and the Sujan Khan-ki-khirki. Parallel to the main road are two others, which run to the Baragaon and Saugor gates: these form the main thoroughfares of the city, are broad and well kept and from them radiate off smaller lanes and alleys, many of which are paved. The bulk of the houses of the city are brick built and of substantial structure; but there are few buildings of any antiquarian or other interest. Close to the north-west of the fort lie the *Pachkuiyan*, which, as their name denotes, are a collection of five wells, all situated within a radius of a few yards, and form the chief water supply of the city. Not far from them is the Dharmsala tank, a masonry tank overlooked by a small temple, the construction, like most of the temples in the city, of the Marathas. East of the fort and not far from it, at the point where the roads to the Orchha and Jhirnan gates branch off, is the spacious and handsome marketplace named Hardyganj, after Mr. R. G. Hardy, who was deputy commissioner of Jhansi in 1890. This is now the chief marketplace in the city, and opposite to it is the much decorated but otherwise inelegant building which was formerly the Rani's palace, but which is now occupied partly by the vernacular school and partly by the police station. There is a large number of *muhallas* in the town, most of which derive their names from the castes which chiefly inhabit them, *e.g.* Jogiana, Chhipiana, etc; but for municipal purposes the city is divided into six wards, known as the Unao Darwaza, Datia Darwaza, Baragaon Darwaza, Sipri Bazar and Naya Basti, Lachhmi Darwaza and Orchha Darwaza. Outside the walled town there are some places of interest. To the east lies the large and handsome tank, known as the Lachhmi Talao, formed by a massive embankment of the usual form across a line of drainage. A broad road runs along this, and both on its banks and on surrounding rocky eminences are numbers of small temples. Below the embankment lies an extensive garden, known as the Narayan Bagh, which has been recently

converted by the municipal board into a public garden. In this, owing to the moisture supplied by soakage from the tank, the *keora* tree luxuriates. The flowers of this tree are of some value; though the plantations have been allowed to decay from neglect, there is a proposal on foot to manage them on proper lines. East of the Lachhmi Talao lies the Shiam Chopra, said to be over a hundred years old; here is a small garden and a masonry tank of peculiar design, which is now owned by a resident of the city. This is the scene of a small bathing festival in the month of *Kartik* (October-November). Similar bathing festivals take place at the Bhuteshar tank near the Shiam Chopra, at the Khaki Shah-ka-band, north of the Narayan bagh. On the west, besides the Atia or Antia Talao, similar to but smaller than the Lachhmi Talao, close to which lies the new tahsil, the chief point of interest is the bold crag, beyond the railway, which goes by the name of Retribution Hill. It was here that a small body of rebels, after the capture of Jhansi by Sir Hugh Rose, were surrounded by the British troops and cut down, a small remnant, who had taken their last refuge on the summit being compelled to throw themselves over on to the rocks below.* Another rocky eminence near the tahsil, called the Jiwan Shah-ki-Toria, is interesting as the site of one of Sir Hugh Rose's batteries.

Minor points in the history of the city.

There are some points of interest also regarding the commercial and administrative history of Jhansi which are worthy of mention. Hunter, who visited the place in 1792, says: "It is frequented by the caravans from the Dekhan, which go to Farrukhabad and other cities of the Doab. Hence an afflux of wealth, which is augmented by a considerable trade in the cloths of Chanderi, and by the manufacture of bows, arrows and spears, the principal weapons of the Bundela tribes." Over sixty years later, soon after the assumption of adminstration by the British, an interesting account of it was written by Captain F. D. Gordon, the first superintendent. In 1854 the population was estimated at 40,000 persons; it had no indigenous manufactures "nor any local causes to render it probable that the town will, at any future time, be much increased in size." "Its importance," he continues, "is derived solely from its centrical position ....The traffic of

* One account says that they blew themselves up.

every description is enormous. Grain from the south, and from the fertile districts of Bhilsa, Bhopal, and Malwa, to the south-west, transported on thousands of *bunjara* bullocks, and where the roads permit, on large carts, passes daily towards the north. From the west a large trade in cotton is carried on, all of which is conveyed to Kalpi............in exchange for which the carts, etc., return laden with sugar, *kirana*, etc., intended for Indore and the country to the west. From the west the traffic in salt is enormous." Apparently everything, except grain, was obliged to pay transit duties, which were annually let in farm to a contractor; and estimating the traffic from the amount of these, Captain Gordon calculated that some Rs. 30,00,000 of produce annually passed through the town. As regards administrative matters, the Gwalior system is of some interest. Under the Gwalior Darbar municipal interests appear to have been more or less under the direct supervision of the *subah* or governor; but there was no municipal balance sheet, the revenues of the city being credited direct to the state, as its expenses were a direct state charge. Income was raised in two ways. The first of these was a simple form of octroi known as *permit sayar*, under which all scheduled imports paid 1½ anna per bullock load, a cart being estimated as containing so many loads. The simpler food grains, wheat, gram, *juar*, etc., paid the duty only once: on other articles, rice, *gur*, *ghi*, etc., it was levied twice, once at the outpost and again at the head octroi office. Exports, that is, anything leaving the bounds of the Jhansi tahsil, paid 1¼ anna per bullock load all round. The other source of income was that known as the *Chaudah Bab* or fourteen heads, being made up as follows. Dhimar Bab, Nao Bab, Chamari Bab, Karigar Bab, Behna Bab, Kachhi Bab, Khatik Bab, Kori Bab, Teli Bab, Gari Bab, Chhipai Bab, Dali Bab, Abkari and Muskirat.* Each of these was farmed to a contractor, who was

* Most of these *babs* explain themselves. The contractor of the Naos, etc., was the *Chaudhri*, who was supposed to get a fee per house or cart, etc., from each member of his guild. The only curious one was the Dali Bab. A royal chair was kept in the octroi office, and in front of this all petty traders coming in from outside made offerings of *pan*, fruit, etc., in rough proportion to the value of their stock. Every evening the contractor carried off the massed offerings.

tied down by certain rules. The income thus obtained was not lavishly expended on improving the city: the only arrangements for lighting the city appear to have been the stone lamp posts erected in the main bazar by the British between 1854 and 1860. Sanitary arrangements were left to private sweepers except towards the end, when a few public scavengers were employed under the supervision of the *kotwal*. Of the improvements introduced after the cession in 1886 it is not necessary to give any detailed description. Roads have been constructed, the main thoroughfares have been drained, and all the usual sanitary or other measures taken to ensure the comfort and health of the inhabitants. The manufactures of the city such as they are and its trade have already been noticed in chapter II.

JHANSI *Tahsil.*

The bulk of the area of this tahsil lies to the west of the Betwa river, and is bounded to the north by the rivers Pahuj and Angori and by *tahsil* Moth. The southern boundary is formed by the river Betwa and by native states, while to the west it marches with the territories of Gwalior, Khaniadhana, Orchha and Datia. The rest of the tahsil consists of several blocks of villages lying along the eastern bank of the Betwa between that river and the native state of Orchha, while there are several islands of Orchha territory surrounded by the tahsil. It has an extreme length of 40 miles from north-east to south-west, and a greatest breadth of 24 miles: the area is 323,359 acres or 505·2 * square miles.

The tahsil is naturally divided into two tracts of very different characteristics. To the north is a level expanse of good soil, mostly *kabar* and *parua*, but with a fair proportion of *mar*. This is probably the best tract in the northern portion of the district, and formerly belonged to the old Bhander pargana. With the exception of some inferior villages along the Betwa, homesteads are plentiful, population close, embankments numerous and cultivation intense. To the south great stretches of rocky and broken ground offer a marked contrast. The villages here generally resemble those in the north of the Lalit-

* Includes 3,499 acres belonging to cantonments.

pur subdivision and the soil is almost exclusively *rakar* surrounding small irrigated patches, which alone grow the better crops. The best land is the *rakar moti* found wherever the ground is level and fairly free from stones, chiefly in valleys near the homesteads. It is studded with wells worked by the Persian wheel and sedulously manured. The border line between these two tracts lies a little north of Jhansi city and is marked by a block of villages uniting the characteristic features of both. In this direction a number of lakes have been constructed, chiefly at the expense of the earlier rulers of the country, from which irrigation is carried on, while in the beds of the tanks, after the water has been drawn off, *rabi* crops are sown. In the most southern villages, known as the *chaurasi*, the soil is *rakar patri*, a refuse soil of the worst description, culturable only for two or three years in succession and growing only the inferior millets, *tili* and *juar*. In the part of the tahsil lying east of the Betwa *parua* is a common soil: but neither the soil nor the products are of good quality except round Barwa Sagar lake where there is a bright oasis of high cultivation.

The chief streams of the tahsil are the Betwa and Pahuj, which have already been described. Their deep and rocky beds forbid any local irrigation, though the former is dammed at Parichha to form the headworks of the Betwa canal and the latter not far from Jhansi to form the reservoir of the new Pahuj canal. The most important of the minor streams are the Bhadei to the north and the Gaurari to the south, each supplying a little irrigation, with the Barwa filling the lake at Barwa Sagar. To the north, trees are scarce and poor, mostly *mahua* and *babul*; but not far from Jhansi the general appearance of bleak desolation is relieved by the numerous Government grass *runds*, and further south by patches of reserved forest in which however the trees are of a very inferior type. There is no good private jungle, but some villages eke out a precarious income by the sale of wood. The southern tract, with a large Ahir population and great stretches of waste, is rather a pastoral than an agricultural country, but the grass is for the most part of the very inferior kind known as *lampa* or spear grass, while none is obtainable in the hot weather unless it has been previously cut

and stored. Villages within a radius of about ten miles from Jhansi make a considerable income by selling grass in the city or by leasing out their runds to the contractors who supply compressed fodder to the Military department. These pay about Re. 1 per acre, while those at a greater distance from the city derive a much smaller income from this source, as labour is very scarce, and only the better qualities of grass will repay the cost of transport.

Of the whole tahsil, 38,036 acres or 11·8 per cent. are recorded as barren waste, being covered with water, roads, buildings or otherwise unculturable. Of the remainder 40,539 acres or 12·5 per cent. are covered by groves or are culturable waste. The cultivated and fallow areas vary considerably according to the season, but the former attains an average of about 110,000 acres, and the latter normally amounts to 136,000 acres, the bulk of which is old fallow. The chief crops grown are cotton, rice, *juar* and small millets in the *kharif*, and wheat, barley and gram in the *rabi*; some 82·6 per cent. of the area under the plough being occupied by the former and 28·7 per cent. by the latter harvest. The *zaid* crops average 789 acres and the double-cropped area 10,315 acres.

Owing to the changes in the tahsil boundaries it is useless to compare the figures of population in any year previous to 1891. In that year, excluding the city of Jhansi and cantonments, the inhabitants amounted to 90,242. In 1901, when the last enumeration was made, there was found to be a small decrease to 89,732. This gives an all-round density of 186 persons per square mile but if the population is distributed over the northern, intermediate, and southern tracts considerable variations in density prevail: in the first it reaches 299, in the second 232 and in the broken *rakar* tracts only 145 persons per square mile are found. The total population in 1901, including the city and cantonments, was 145,371 persons. Classified according to religions there were 126,313 Hindus, 15,257 Musalmans, 72 Aryas, 2,769 Christians, 730 Jains, 54 Sikhs and 176 Parsis. Among the Hindus the most numerous castes were Brahmans 13,945, Chamars 12,754, Kachhis 11,203, Lodhis 9,577, Ahirs 8,793, Koris 7,630, Banias 5,432, Kahars 5,375, Gadariyas 5,330, and Rajputs 4,280: Nais, Telis, Lohars, Barhais, Kumhars, Khangars and Kayasths all exceeded 2,000 members apiece,

Of the Rajput clans those found in largest numbers were Panwars, Bais, Kachhwahas, Parihars, Chauhans and Bundelas. The majority of the people are devoted to agriculture or its allied occupation, the pasturage and tending of cattle, but the number of those engaged in personal service or in commerce and transport is somewhat higher than in other tahsils owing to the existence of a large cantonment and of a considerable trade centre at Jhansi.

There are 214 villages in the tahsil, divided into 307 *mahals*: of these 60 are held in single and 104 in joint *zamindari*; 10 in perfect and 125 in imperfect *pattidari*, and 8 are *bhaiyachara*. The chief land-holding castes are Brahmans, Rajputs, Ahirs, Lodhis and Gadariyas, but there are no large landlords, and most of the soil is in the hands of small proprietary communities. Communications are excellent. The Cawnpore-Saugor road traverses the tahsil from north-east to south, and the roads run from Jhansi towards Sipri, Gwalior and Nowgong, while from Baragaon the Garautha road branches off. These metalled roads are connected or supplemented by numerous unmetalled roads of varying degrees of badness according to the soil and country over which they have to pass. Four lines of railway meet at Jhansi itself, which has now become an important junction, and no less than nine railway stations, namely, Babina, Khajraha, Bijoli, Jhansi, Karari, Mustara, Garhmau, Parichha and Barwa Sagar, are situated within the limits of the tahsil. In Jhansi the tract possesses a large and prosperous market; and at Baragaon, Barwa Sagar and Babina are found minor centres of considerable local importance. Lists showing the ferries, fairs, markets, post offices and schools will be found in the appendix.

The pargana of Jhansi, which lapsed to the British with the rest of the Jhansi state, consisted in 1853 of 195 villages. When it was first summarily assessed to revenue in 1857 by Major F.D. Gordon it consisted of 112 revenue paying *mahals*. In 1860 there were 182 villages, 61 of which were transferred to Sindhia by the treaty of that year, leaving 121 villages: of this number 114 were revenue paying, 6 revenue free and one a grass preserve. By the union of some *mahals* the number of revenue paying estates was reduced to 112½ and these were assessed by Major

Davidson in 1863-64 at Rs. 47,157. By readjustment of tahsil boundaries in 1866, by transfer and reapportionment in 1871 and 1886, the tahsil came finally to comprise its present area, which in 1892 was settled at Rs. 1,35,545; this sum was reduced to Rs. 1,18,194 in 1906.

The tahsil contains its share of antiquities, the best known of which are at Pachar*, Lawa and Dhamkar: those at Barwa Sagar have been separately noticed. For criminal and executive purposes it is usually in the charge of a full-powered covenanted assistant on the district staff; and police jurisdiction is divided between the circles of Jhansi, New Jhansi, Sadr Bazar, Baragaon, Barwa Sagar, Babina, Raksa and Chirgaon.

JHARAR, *Pargana* TALBEHAT, *Tahsil* LALITPUR.

A small village in 25° 7′ N. and 78° 28′ E., with a population of 46 persons, chiefly Lodhis, lying close to the Betwa. It gives its name to the *ghat*, where the Jhansi-Saugor road is carried over that river on a causeway. During the rains the latter was impassable, and even boats were unable to negotiate the stream. In this season foot passengers used the Suren-*ghat* two miles higher up the river, and all other traffic passed by Siras-*ghat*, in Gwalior territory, nine miles higher up. Owing to the flooding of the causeway up till the month of February from the water retained by the Dhukwan weir, a ferry of boats will hence forth be provided by the Irrigation department and as the violence of the current is checked by the weir and the rocks are submerged it will be possible to work this ferry throughout the rainy season. A small forest bungalow is situated on the Jhansi side.

KAKARWAI, *Tahsil* GARAUTHA.

A village in 25° 42′ N. and 79° 21′ E., situated on a ridge to the left of the Chaich river distant 54 miles from Jhansi and 9 from Garautha. It contains a third class police station, post office, and small school. It is the residence of an *ubaridar* who owns five entire villages, namely Kachir, Dhamnaur, Hiranagar, Kharka and Dumrai, nearly the whole of

* Here was discovered in 1908 a copper-plate regarding a grant of land by the Chandel Raja Paramandi Deva to a Brahman of the village, which is described as being in pargana Kagawan—J. A. S. B. Prog. vol. IV., no. 10, 1908.

Kakarwai, and one *patti* amounting to a little over a quarter of Durkhuru. Some account of the family has already been given in chapter III. The title of Rao is said to have been given by a Maharaja of Panna, and has always been recognised by the British Government. Of the Kakarwai estate, the village of Dumrai is held by a large coparcenary body of Parihar Rajput under-proprietors, who pay ordinary revenue to the *ubaridar* without *malikana*. The other villages are held direct by the *ubaridars*, and the whole pays a demand of Rs. 436. At the recent settlement this demand has not been changed, but the amounts to be paid by the Parihar under-proprietors of Dumrai have been adjusted. In 1901 the population numbered 1,356 persons, the principal Hindu caste being Koris.

KATERA, *Tahsil* MAU.

A small town in 25° 15′ N. and 78° 56′ E. lying in the south-west of the tahsil, at a distance of 15 miles from Mau and 30 miles from Jhansi. It is connected by an unmetalled road with Teharka railway station on the Jhansi-Manikpur railway, and with the metalled road from Jhansi to Nowgong at Bangra, as well as by other roads which join the latter at Ghughua and Mau. To the west of the town there is a range of low hills, on an eminence of which is situated a trigonometrical survey station with a recorded level of 1,429 feet. The place possesses a first-class police station, school and bazar, and has some reputation for a species of pottery which is more remarkable for strength than elegance. The population in 1865 was 4,995 persons but in 1901 had fallen to 4,375, Kurmis and Chamars being the most numerous castes. The Raja is permitted to levy an octroi cess under U. P. Act III of 1901 as at Gursarai, on condition of spending Rs. 200 a year on conservancy. Raja Bahadur Sardar Singh has his residence here, and holds the village revenue-free in perpetuity. Some account has been given of his history in chapter III. His estate consists of 8 whole villages and shares in three others: Katera is held revenue free in perpetuity; five* others are revenue-free during life, and the remainder of the estate pays a demand of Rs. 2,150.

* These are Barwa, Dhaipura, Kharka, Ratosa and Ghurat.

KELGAWAN, *Pargana* BANPUR, *Tahsil* MAHRONI.

A considerable village situated a mile from the Jamni river in 24° 50′ N. and 78° 46′ E. It lies 25 miles north-east of Lalitpur on the direct road to Mau-Ranipur, and contains a school and a police outpost. The population in 1901 numbered 1,985 persons, including a large community of Banias, most of whom are Jains: there are also several Jain temples. Steatite, quarried at Bijri two miles to the south-west, is worked up here into vessels of various kinds. When Sindhia's troops under Colonel Filose conquered Chanderi, in 1811 A.D., Raja Mur Pahlad was ganted a *jagir* of 31 villages including Kelgawan, where he resided till the Batota treaty of 1830 gave him the kingdom of Banpur. There are two forts here, one close to the village and the other a mile to the north-east; the latter is known as Ramnagar.

KELWARA, *Pargana and Tahsil* LALITPUR.

An agricultural village lying in 25° 44′ N. and 78° 17′ E., 10 miles west-north-west of Lalitpur, and within two miles of the Betwa on the road to Chanderi. It had in 1901 a population of 503 persons, chiefly consisting of Lodhis, and contains a first-class police station and post office.

KHAJURIA, *Pargana and Tahsil* LALITPUR.

A village situated on the Sajnam river on the direct road to Madaora, which leaves the metalled road to Mahroni at Khitwans. It lies in 24° 34′ N. and 78° 36′ E. and is distant 15 miles from Lalitpur. The village forms part of the Gadiana *jagir*, contains an old fort, is the seat of a small dyeing industry and has a weekly market held on Thursdays. There are a post office and a school in the place, which up till 1907 also contained a police-station. The population numbers 753 persons, chiefly Jains and Behnas.

KONCHA BHANWAN, *Tahsil* JHANSI.

A small village with a population of 1,308 persons, chiefly Ahirs, lying in 25° 27′ N. and 78° 40′ E., about four miles east of Jhansi on the Cawnpore road. The village is only remarkable for a large tank, formed by a massive embankment, faced with

large blocks of unmortared stones. It was repaired, new channels excavated, and a sluice built in 1863-64. The road from Jhansi to Cawnpore passes over the embankment, along which formerly ran the thick hedge which formed the old customs line. The area of the tank is estimated, when full, at 126 acres, and it probably contains at the end of normal rains an average depth of 4½ to 5 feet of water. One mile below the lake is a strong masonry weir thrown across a *nala* known as the Marghatta *bandh*. It was also restored and repaired in 1863-64. Between this and the lake are the remains of an old masonry *bandh*, which has been breached. Just above the Marghatta *bandh* on the right flank is the head of a large watercourse for supplying water for irrigation. At one time as much as 500 acres were said to have been irrigated from this lake, and its improvement was the subject of considerable discussion; but the bulk of the land is *kadim abpashi*, and the lake was not put under the Irrigation department with the four large lakes in 1877. It however was looked after by the district authorities till 1905, when its management with other tanks was placed in the hands of the executive engineer in charge of the Tanks division. The ancestral owners of the village were Ahirs, but nearly three-quarters have been sold to a Muhammadan of Datia.

KOTRA GHAT, *Tahsil* MAU.

A village lying in 24° 11′ N. and 79° 17′ E. on the road from Jhansi to Nowgong, 52 miles from Jhansi and 12 miles from Mau. It is situated close to the Dhasan, and possesses a ferry leased from Nowgong, a school, road bungalow and an encamping-ground under the control of the Public Works department. There was formerly a police station here which has now given place to an outpost: the population numbers 1,033 persons, chiefly Parihars. The village formerly possessed a peculiar tenure. It was occupied about 1650 A.D. by Bundela Rajputs, the ancestors of the present owners, who held it on condition of providing a contingent of fighting men or of performing other services, known as *chakari*. The village was divided into two portions, *chakari* and revenue paying, and there were four *sardars*. The profits of the revenue paying portion were devoted

to the payment of village expenses, but the *chakari* portion was divided into 60 *chakaris*, 15 of which were managed by each *sardar*, while to the holder or holders of each *chakari* a proportionate amount of land was given. Besides the Bundelas, Brahmans and Parihar and Janwar Rajputs also held *chakaris*. When the Marathas took possession of the country a light quit rent was assessed on the village, and at first this demand, being merely nominal, was met by the *sardars* from the profits of the revenue paying portion of the village and of their own holdings. But by degrees the demand was raised, and it was found necessary to apportion it among the different *chakaris*, till at length the sum payable on each *chakari* amounted to 22 *Nanashahi* rupees. When the district lapsed to the British Government it was assessed at full revenue, but the amount payable on each *chakari* remained unaltered. There were then five instead of four subdivisions, one having been split up into two of 7½ *chakaris* each. The *sardars* became *lambardars* and collected Rs. 22 on each *chakari*, or on each *tauziband* as the land of a *chakari* was called. These sums and the collections from the common land were thrown into one fund, and the surplus, after the payment of the Government demand and all expenses, was divided among the members who engaged directly with Government for the land revenue. They alone shared all the profits and paid all the losses. At the time of the preparation of records-of-rights in 1866 many of the *tauziwars* or *chakari* holders applied to be admitted to a share of the profits, or to receive a portion of the common lands equivalent to their ancestral share, as shown in the village pedigrees. To this the *lambardars* objected, and accordingly the *chakaris*, or portions of *chakaris*, were entered, according to the possession, in the names of the different *tauziwars*, and on each of the latter was assessed a sum at the rate of Rs. 22 per *chakari*. The *lambardars* had the option of dividing off the common lands into five equal parts ; and these were held by the *lambardars*, *tauziwars* and hereditary tenants, all of whom paid rent according to the custom of *thanka*. The *chakari* lands remained undisturbed and no one had any claim to a redistribution of these holdings.

Two miles below Kotra is the site of the Pahari dam for the Dhasan canal, the completion of which will necessitate the removal of the entire village.

KUMHERI, *Pargana and Tahsil* MAHRONI.

A large agricultural village lying in 24° 32′ N. and 78° 49′ E., 5 miles south-east of Mahroni, with which it is connected by a bad village cart track. The population in 1901 numbered 1,758 persons. The only point of interest about the village is its size.

LAHCHURA, *Tahsil* MAU.

Lahchura Ghat or Ghat Lahchura is a village lying in 25° 19′ N. and 79° 18′ E. on the banks of the Dhasan river, distant 50 miles from Jhansi and ten miles from Mau. It is connected with Mau on one side and with the town of Rath on the other by an unmetalled road; and over the river there is a public ferry managed by the district board. Three miles to the south the river is spanned by a bridge on the Jhansi-Manikpur railway, consisting of 13 spans of 100 feet each in length. Near Lahchura is situated the masonry weir 2,210 feet long, impounding 1,355,669,216 cubic feet of water, which forms a reservoir for the Dhasan canal. Its construction was completed in 1908. The village contains a third-class police station, post office and school; and had in 1901 a population of 775 persons, the principal Hindu caste being that of Chamars.

LALITPUR *Subdivision.*

The Lalitpur subdivision of the Jhansi district comprises the two tahsils of Lalitpur and Mahroni. From 1860 to 1891 this tract of country, which was formed out of a part of the old Chanderi district and the confiscated estates of the Rajas of Banpur and Shahgarh, together with the Narhat *taluqa*, was a separate district under a deputy commissioner subordinate to the commissioner of the Jhansi division. It was constituted a subdivision of the Jhansi district in 1891, and since that year has remained in charge of a subdivisional officer, who resides at Lalitpur and is subordinate to the collector of Jhansi. It has accordingly ceased to have an independent existence, and all the

information concerning it will be found in the general narrative, and the tahsil and pargana articles.

LALITPUR, *Pargana and Tahsil* LALITPUR.

The chief town and administrative headquarters of the subdivision of the same name lie in 24° 42′ N. and 78° 28′ E. on the Great Indian Peninsula railway. It is the largest and in fact the only important town between Jhansi and Saugor, with which it is connected by a provincial road, and from which it is distant 57 and 64 miles respectively. The railway station lies 1⅛ mile east of the town.

Tradition ascribes the founding of Lalitpur to Lalita, the wife of one Raja Sumer Singh, who is said to have come from the Deccan and to have constructed the Sumera tank. Another account says that the Raja, while on his way to the Ganges to try the efficacy of its waters for some cutaneous complaint, fell ill in his encampment near the present site of Lalitpur, and bathed in an already existing tank, which cured him, and henceforth bore his name. Tradition further states that Rama and Sita passed through the town on their return from Ceylon, and a stone in the Shahzad river is called the *Sita pathar*; and there is a legend to the effect that in the time of the Gonds the area of the subdivision was divided between the chiefs of Dudhai and Haraspur, whose mutual boundary ran through Lalitpur. Close to the municipal school a stone is still pointed out as one of the boundary pillars. The place was wrested from the Gonds, according to tradition, in 1514 A.D. by Govind Bundela and his son Rudr Pratap. A hundred years later it was included in the Bundela state of Chanderi, and *muhalla* Rudr and the large *baoli* well close to the municipal school were built by Krishn Rao of Bansi in 1628 A. D.* About 1800 an indecisive battle was fought here between the Bundelas and the Marathas under Morupanth, governor of Saugor, a little to the east of the Shahzad, and in 1812 it became the headquarters of Colonel Filose, who was appointed by Sindhia to manage Chanderi. In the following year Diwan Bakht Singh of Jakhlon captured and plundered it, but was soon after expelled and defeated at Tainta.†

* There is an inscription on the *baoli* to this effect. | † Three miles north of Bansi.

His son, Diwan Gambhir Singh of Jakhlon, commanding a force on behalf of Orchha, was only induced to refrain from again plundering it in 1829 A.D. by the payment of a large sum of money from the bankers of the town. On the formation of the district of Chanderi in 1844 it became the headquarters and remained the capital of the district till 1891, when Lalitpur became a subdivision of Jhansi. Since that year it has been the residence of the subdivisional officer in charge of that portion of the district. The events which took place in the Mutiny have already been related. Lalitpur was also the cantonment for a wing of a native infantry regiment till 1888.

The town is situated on the west bank of the Shahzad river and is bounded on the north by the Biana *nala*. The chief business portion is towards the south-west near the police station, the tahsili, the dispensary and the municipal office, all of which lie on or close to the Saugor road. There are two bazars, the *Katra* which was built about 1864 by Captain Tyler, deputy commissioner, assisted by Mr. Hicks, and the *Najhai*, which is chiefly a grain market. There are said to be 50 Hindu temples, some of which are very picturesque, and a considerable number of Jain temples, the chief being the Chhatarpal on the road to the railway station. The most interesting building is the *Bansa*, which is said to have been the octroi office of the Muhammadan rulers. It is a small building open on three sides, save for a balustrade, and supported on highly carved columns which were obviously derived from pre-existing Chandel buildings. It bears an inscription containing the name of Firoz Shah Tughlak and the date *sambat* 1415 or 1358 A.D. The *Katra* bazar consists of a square of about 120 yards with shops on all sides, and in the centre is a long building under one roof, divided into shops. The open space around this building is wide, well gravelled and drained. From the *Katra* the town stretches in all directions but principally northwards, and the streets are narrow and tortuous, winding amidst houses which are occasionally stone built but are mostly of mud. The soil is throughout *pathri*, and rock is close to the surface: but there is a good slope down to the river and the drainage is good. Nearly all the streets are now paved with flat slabs of Vindhyan sandstone. The water-supply is derived from wells, most of which are sunk down

to the rock and depend on infiltration from the Sumera tank. The civil station lies to the west of the town and bears a somewhat desolate appearance, owing to several empty and half ruinous bungalows, which have fallen into disrepair since the removal of the garrison and the reduction of the European staff. There is a small church dedicated to St. John in the Wilderness, which is visited quarterly by the chaplain of Jhansi, and a European cemetery which lies about a mile from the town on the Chanderi road. Besides the subdivisional officer, a deputy collector, an assistant superintendent of police, a district surveyor and a munsif with second-class criminal powers are normally stationed here. There is also a branch of the American Mission and an orphanage.

Lalitpur has been a municipality since 1870, and civic matters are in the hands of a committee consisting of four *ex-officio* and eight nominated members. It is one of the few towns in the province where municipal commissioners are not elected. Details of income and expenditure will be found in the appendix.* The town is divided now into sixteen *muhallas* known as *Ajitapura*, *Barepura*, *Bhattiana*, *Bansipura*, *Chaubianapura*, *Tajpura*, *Ghosiana*, *Jhansipura*, *Khirka*, *Mauthana*, *Nadipura*, *Najhai Bazar*, *Purani Bazaria*, *Railway Station*, *Ramnagar* and *Sarai*. The population in 1865 numbered 9,258 persons, 8,976 in 1871, 10,684 in 1881, and 11,348 in 1891: at the last enumeration the number had risen to 11,560, out of which 8,306 were Hindus and 1,780 Musalmans. 1,226 Jains, 236 Christians and 12 of other religions. The majority of the inhabitants follow agricultural pursuits; but there is a considerable trading element, consisting for the most part of Banias, among whom Jains predominate. The trade of the town is chiefly connected with the collection and export of agricultural and jungle produce, or the import and distribution of articles not procurable in the subdivision. It is also the centre for a large tract of native territory, especially the Orchha state, with which it has metalled communication. The chief articles of export are oilseeds, hides, bones, grass, *ghi* and wood, and of the imports wheat, sugar, salt and piece goods: large quantities of dried beef are also sent away to

* Appendix, table XVI.

Rangoon. Market is held on Wednesdays and Thursdays; the former day being largely devoted to the buying and selling of cattle.

Besides the institutions and places already mentioned Lalitpur contains a combined post and telegraph office, one large and three smaller schools, with about 250 pupils including 25 girls, supported or aided by the municipality, and a pound. There is a large number of *sati* stones scattered about and three-quarters of a mile north-west of the town lies the tomb of Sadhan Kasai. The latter has a curious legend attached to it. Sadhan is said to have been a butcher in Lalitpur about 1600 A.D. and to have used as a weight a *saligrama* or ammonite which had the peculiar property of weighing out whatever weight of meat a customer required. An ascetic saw this ammonite and persuaded Sadhan Sah to let him have it, but being warned in a dream soon restored it to the Kasai, relating his dream. This so struck Sadhan that he went on a pilgrimage to the temple of Jagannath in Orissa. On the way he asked alms of a Bania's wife, who fell in love with him. Mistaking his refusal to comply with her desires, "even though his head were cut off," for a request that she should behead her husband, she did so, and on Sadhan's continued refusal procured his conviction for murder. He was punished by the loss of his right hand, and then proceeded on his pilgrimage. The god warned his attendants to meet him, which they did, and on his arrival before the image his hand was immediately restored.

LALITPUR *Pargana, Tahsil* LALITPUR.

The pargana of Lalitpur occupies the south central portion of the tahsil of the same name. It has a total area of 278,710 acres or 435·5 square miles, of which 320 acres are reserved forest. The pargana is divided into four tracts: to the south and east the prevailing soil is *moto*, with the village of Birdha in the centre; on the northern border is a red soil area typified by the villages of Kalianpura and Thanwarah between them lies a mixed soil or *dumat* belt, of which Lalitpur itself is a good example; and lastly there is the alluvial strip along the Betwa river locally known as *Sonru*. The western boundary is the Betwa and

the eastern the Sajnam river; on the north lies pargana Bansi and on the south Balabehat; while the pargana is divided roughly into two equal portions by the Shahzad river. There are few hills in the paragna, and most of them lie in the north-east and north-west. Of the total area 19,139 acres or 7 per cent. are barren waste, and 32,686 acres or 11·8 per cent. are culturable or covered with groves. The cultivated area averages 78,000 acres and the fallow land 140,000 acres. The chief crops grown are *júar*, *til* and *kodon* in the *kharif*, and gram and wheat in the *rabi*, the former harvest aggregating normally 90 per cent. and the latter 19 per cent. of the cropped area. The *zaid* crops cover ordinarily 200 acres, and the double-cropped area approximates to 7,400 acres. Irrigation is more practised than in some of the southern parganas, and normally some 6,000 acres receive a watering, chiefly from wells. In 1901 the population amounted to 63,623 persons. The pargana is well supplied with means of communication. The Saugor road from Jhansi traverses it from north to south, and eastwards runs the metalled road from Lalitpur to Mahroni. Unmetalled roads radiate from Lalitpur in all directions to Jakhlon, Pali (branching off from the Saugor road at Ghatwar), Jakhaura, Kelwara and Gugarwara. Besides this the railway passes through it and has several stations in it.

LALITPUR *Tahsil.*

The Lalitpur tahsil comprises the parganas of Lalitpur, Bansi, Talbehat and Balabehat and lies between 24° 16′ and 25° 12′ N. and 78° 10′ and 78°40′ E. It thus covers the whole of the western portion of the subdivision and has a total area of 6,77,431 acres or 1,058 square miles. The Betwa forms the western and northern boundaries: on the south lies the Saugor district; and on the east the tahsil is bordered by tahsil Mahroni and the Orchha state, from the latter of which it is divided by the Jamni river. The Shahzad river traverses nearly its whole length from south to north; but in pargana Balabehat the tahsil surmounts the Vindhyan plateau and rises to a considerably higher elevation. The chief features of the tracts into which the tahsil is divided have been sufficiently described in the various pargana articles.

Of the total area of the tahsil 98,482 acres, or 14·5 per cent., are returned as barren, and of the rest 125,828 acres or 18·5 per cent. are culturable waste or covered with groves. The cultivated area averages 157,400 acres or 23 per cent., and the fallow area 284,000 acres or 42 per cent. Of the former 20,175 acres or 13 per cent. are ordinarily irrigated. The chief crops grown are cotton, *til*, *juar* and the inferior millets in the *kharif* covering 93 per cent. of the cropped area, and wheat, gram and barley generally in combination in the *rabi*, which occupies 19 per cent. The *zaid* harvest does not on the average exceed 1,600 acres, and the area under double crops amounts to 19,400 acres. The tahsil at the recent settlement in 1903-06 contained 414 *mauzas* which were divided into 445 *mahals*. Of the latter 63 were in the hands of single landholders, 326 were held in joint *zamindari*, 11 in perfect *pattidari* and 37 in imperfect *pattidari* tenure, four being *bhaiyachara* and the remainder revenue-free. The population in 1901 numbered 144,638 persons. There have been considerable variations in the number: in 1865 it was 136,674, in 1872 118,964, in 1881 138,516, and in 1891 157,163. Classified according to religions there were 135,727 Hindus, 3,981 Musalmans, 4,658 Jains, 259 Christians, 12 Sikhs and one Parsi. Among the Hindus, the most numerous castes were Chamars 17,032, Ahirs 15,805, Lodhis 15,094, Brahmans 11,684, Kachhis 11,317 and Rajputs 11,312; while Koris, Gadariyas, Kurmis, Dhimars, Saharias, Basors, Khangars, Dhobis, Lohars, Barhais and Telis all numbered over 2,000 members apiece. The population is almost entirely devoted to agriculture and kindred pursuits, the only large commercial community being in Lalitpur town. The chief landholders are Rajputs and Brahmans, many of the former being *ubaridars*, of whom some account has already been given in chapter III. Lalitpur contains the only two towns, namely Talbehat and Lalitpur, in the subdivision; while other important places are Bansi, Pali, Jakhlon and Jakhaura, all of which have been separately noticed.

The *tahsil* contains a large number of ruins of archæological interest: those at Deogarh, Talbehat, Chandpur, Dudhai and Siron have been separately noticed. Chandel remains are also to be found at Siron Khurd, Kisalwans, Kiraunda, Dhangol and

Lidhora; and Bundela remains at Buhchera, Muktora, Datia (in Balabehat) and Hansgawan. Other sites of archæological interest are Kotra and Rajpur in pargana Talbehat; Gursora, Jakhaura, Mainwar, Panchampur and Raipur in Bansi; Airaoni, Barodia-Raen, Khajuria, Lagon and Surar in pargana Lalitpur; and Bandargurha, Kakoria and Maholi in Balabehat.

The tahsil forms a revenue and criminal subdivision in charge of the subdivisional magistrate at Lalitpur. For purposes of police administration there are stations at Lalitpur, Jakhlon, Birdha, Bar, Kelwara, Bansi, Jakhaura, Talbehat, Nathikhera, Dudhai and Narhat.

MADANPUR, *Pargana* MADAORA, *Tahsil* LALITPUR.

A village lying in 24° 15′ N. and 78° 43′ E., 39 miles south-south-east of Lalitpur with which it is connected by an unmetalled road which branches off the Saugor road at Guna: it is also connected by an unmetalled road with Madaora. The village is most picturesquely situated at the narrowest point of one of the easiest passes through the Vindhyans, and close to a large tank of Chandel origin which covers 67 acres. The village formerly contained a police station, which was abolished in 1907, but has a post office and a school and is now much decayed, many of the houses being in ruins. The population in 1901 numbered 561 persons. Just south of the village is a quarry of excellent sandstone, and iron ore was formerly worked within the limits of the *mauza.*

There are numerous Chandel ruins in the vicinity, notably two buildings on the embankment of the tank, and several temples west and north-west of the village. On one side of the village is a Jain temple with an inscription, dated *sambat* 1206 or A.D. 1149, which contains the name of Madanapura. But the most interesting and valuable inscriptions are preserved in a small open-pillared building, supported on six squared shafts, known as the *baradari.* On the pillars of this small building are engraved two short records of the great Chauhan prince Prithviraj, recording the conquest of king Paramardi and his country of Jejakasukti in *sambat* 1239 or 1182 A.D. Madanpur was founded by Madanavarman, one of the greatest of the Chandel princes, and was then a thriving place. Even as late as 1876 it is so described by General

Cunningham. The pass up the *ghat* was occupied by the rebel Raja of Shahgarh in 1858, in order to resist Sir Hugh Rose's advance from Saugor, but was brilliantly carried by that General's troops after a hotly-contested fight.

A little westward of the present village is the site of an older town called *Patan*, where some Jain temples now stand. The prehistoric Raja of Patan was Mangal Sen, whose palace site with the foundation wall and gate are still pointed out in the village. About a mile to the east is Phatun, so called from the hill which was split by the action of a rivulet: here are some natural caverns, once tenanted by hermits.

MADAORA, *Pargana* MADAORA, *Tahsil* MAHRONI.

Madaora or Maraura is the chief town of the pargana of the same name, and lies in 24° 23′ N. and 78° 50′ E. It is situated 34 miles south-east of Lalitpur, with which it is connected by a direct unmetalled road, leaving the Lalitpur-Tikamgarh road at Khitwans. Other roads connect it with Madanpur 12 miles, Girar 10 miles, Sonjna 12 miles and Mahroni 17 miles, the last being metalled. The town has a population of 1,142 persons, and contains a first-class police station, post office, school and a district bungalow. But it has, in common with the surrounding tract, suffered severely during the recent famines, and its appearance is somewhat deceptively prosperous owing to the presence of a considerable colony of Jain Banias, of whose characteristic and picturesque temples there are twelve. There is a fine though ruined fort on the southern edge of the village overlooking a tank which covers some 27 acres and was deepened as a famine relief work in 1900. This fort was built about the middle of the 18th century by a Maratha governor named Balwant Rao; and a house built by another Maratha governor, Pundit Moru Baba, bearing the date *sambat* 1878 or 1821 A.D., still exists but is in a ruinous condition. The fort was captured and practically destroyed during the Mutiny, and close by it is a grave bearing the name of Gunner I. Birkill of the 8th Battery, R. A., and an inscription in Tamil dated 8th April 1859 a little south-east of the site. There are also two good examples of *sati* stones dated *sambat* 1872 and 1888 respectively; and a small brass-working industry is carried on.

MADAORA *Pargana, Tahsil* MAHRONI.

Madaora pargana forms the southern portion of Mahroni tahsil. In the south and east it marches with the Saugor district, except at one point where it touches Bijawar territory: to the north it borders on the Orchha state and on parganas Banpur and Mahroni, and on the west on parganas Lalitpur and Balabehat. Along the south is a belt of high land belonging to the Central Indian plateau and almost wholly included in reserved forest, with a few villages in remote valleys. North of this the ground sinks abruptly to the main plain of the pargana, which is cut up by numerous *nalas* and drainage channels and has a general slight slope to the north. The most important of these *nalas* are the Jamni and Ori, running back centrally, the Dhasan along the east, and the Sajnam to the north-west, with the Roni and Bandi crossing diagonally and falling into the Dhasan at the north-east corner of the pargana. A system of tributary *nalas* radiates from these main drainage lines, and under their influence a large area has become uneven and broken. In the greater part of the pargana, north and west, black soil predominates and the characteristics are the same as those of central Lalitpur, except that the hills are fewer and the irrigated *taretas* a much less prominent feature in most of the villages. A large part of this tract is covered with thorny scrub jungle and the outlying villages, more especially those to the south-east in the recesses of the plateau, are almost inaccessible to cart traffic.

The total area of the pargana is 259,705 acres or 405·8 square miles, of which 56·2 square miles are reserved forest. Including the latter, 57,599 acres or 22·2 per cent. are barren waste, while 41,832 acres or over 14 per cent. are covered with groves or are culturable waste. Normally some 59,000 acres are under the plough and 96,000 acres are fallow. Of the cultivated area some 3,800 acres are *dofasli*, 82 per cent are occupied by *kharif* and 22 per cent. by *rabi*: the *zaid* harvest is insignificant. Irrigation is a factor of small importance except in the best red soil villages, and the irrigated area normally does not exceed 1,350 acres. The chief crops grown are, as elsewhere, *juar*, *til* and the small millets, with a little rice, in the *kharif*, and gram mixed with peas or wheat in the *rabi*.

The pargana has suffered perhaps more than any other from calamity. The population fell from 43,608 in 1891 to 36,884 in 1901, the decrease being as great in the red soil tracts as in the black. The pargana contains 162 villages which at the settlement of 1906 were divided into 163 *mahals*. Of these 17 were held in simple *zamindari*, 121 in joint *zamindari*, 7 in perfect *pattidari* and 17 in imperfect *pattidari*, one being *bhayachara*. There are several important *ubari* estates at Narhat, Dongra Kalan, Satwansa, Barwar, Piparia, Gidwaha and Saidpur. Brahman and other money-lenders own a number of villages and Lodhis still hold a considerable amount of land, but Rajputs are far the largest landlords. An unusual feature is the survival of aboriginal Gond *zamindars* in the outlying villages of Lakhanjhir, Papro and Bangawan.

The whole tract has numerous remains of archæological interest, especially to the south, and its history has already been given in chapter IV.

MAHRONI, *Pargana and Tahsil* MAHRONI.

The headquarters of the tahsil of the same name lie in 24° 35′ N. and 78° 45′ E. It is a small town with a population of 2,682 persons, for the most part Brahmans, distant 23 miles east-south-east of Lalitpur on the metalled road to Tikamgarh. It is connected by unmetalled roads with Banpur, 9 miles, Sonjna, 10 miles, and Narhat, 18 miles; and with Madaora, 17 miles, by a metalled road. Besides the tahsil there is a first-class police station, post office, town school and, three miles off at Chhaprat, a district board bungalow. The town has been administered since 1872 under Act XX of 1856, the average income, which is in part derived from a tax on weighmen, being approximately Rs. 600 per annum. This is expended on the maintenance of a small staff of sweepers, a force of police, and in simple works of improvement. The town has a fair amount of trade in agricultural produce, and the bazar is flourishing: a weekly market is held on Mondays. The fort, which contains the *tahsili* and the *thana*, is a massive Bundela construction, which was built about 1750 by Man Singh, Raja of Chanderi. It was captured in 1811 by Colonel Filose, on behalf of Sindhia, and while in the possession of his troops in 1829 was unsuccessfully attacked by the Raja of Orchha.

MAHRONI *Pargana*, *Tahsil* MAHRONI.

Mahroni pargana is the central tract of the Mahroni tahsil. Its total area is 98,196 acres or 153·43 square miles, out of which 1,614 acres are reserved forest, and it contains only 62 villages, 14 of which are uninhabited. The pargana is of very irregular shape, the length from north to south varying from 5 - to 16 miles. On the west the Jamni river separates it from pargana Banpur: to the north and east lies the Orchha state and to the south it marches with pargana Madaora. The main block of the pargana to the west is an undulating tract of black soil, rising gradually from the river Jamni to the central villages of Kumheri and Jakhaura, and sinking again eastward to the Jamrar *nala*. East of this is another undulating stretch of dark soil, but the *moto* is less prominent and *pathri* occupies a larger proportion of the area. Further east beyond a line which may be roughly described as extending from Chhapchhol to Loharra there is an abrupt change to a tract in which red soil predominates and scrub jungle and rocky elevations of the type of pargana Banpur take the place of the bare wastes of the blacksoil tract; a few border villages and more especially the large village of Sonjna combine both characteristics, but on the whole the line of transition is unmistakable. The only river of any importance is the Jamni, but the Jamrar carries off most of the drainage of the central area and a network of *nalas* radiates from both through the whole of the blacksoil tract, leaving few level stretches of any extent.

Less than 6 per cent. of the total area is recorded as barren waste and a like quantity is covered with groves or is culturable waste. The cultivated area averages some 29,000 acres, and the fallow area 57,000 acres, nine-tenths of which is old fallow. The chief crops grown are *juar*, *til*, and the small millets in the *kharif*, and wheat alone or gram in various mixtures in the *rabi*, the former occupying nearly five-sixths of the total cropped area. The irrigated area averages some 1,600 acres only, which is chiefly watered from wells, and the double-cropped area does not exceed 2,300 acres. The pargana contains only 63 *mahals*, the bulk of the area being owned by Rajputs and Brahmans: 82 per cent. is held in joint *zamindari* tenure and 14·27 per cent. in imperfect

pattidari. The population fell from 22,862 in 1891 to 18,431 in 1901, or by 19·38 per cent., and the tract has suffered severely from the famines of the last decade of the century. The total demand assessed in 1906 was Rs. 11,939.

MAHRONI *Tahsil.*

Mahroni tahsil lies between the parallels of 24° 11′ and 24° 58′ N. and 78° 30′ and 79° E. and comprises the parganas of Banpur, Mahroni and Madaora, or the eastern portion of the subdivision. On the north and west it is bounded by parganas of the Lalitpur tahsil, on the south and south-east by the Saugor district, and on the east by the Orchha state. It has a total area of 567,771 acres or 887 square miles. The physical features of the tract have been sufficiently described in the pargana articles. The Jamni river rises in the south and enters the tahsil between Narhat and Madaora through a picturesque gorge, called Panduau, and after flowing north past Mahroni turns somewhat to the east, forming the boundary between Orchha and pargana Banpur. The only other important streams are the Jamrar, which flows north through pargana Mahroni, and the Sonjna which cuts across pargana Banpur. On the south in pargana Madaora it touches the Vindhyan hills, and its south-eastern border is washed by the Dhasan river.

Of the total area of the tahsil 84,958 acres or 14·8 per cent. are classified as barren waste, out of which 65·8 square miles are reserved forest. In addition to this there are 61,510 acres or over 16 per cent. covered with groves or culturable waste. The cultivated area normally occupies 152,718 acres, and the area of fallow approximates to 262,000 acres, of which nearly three-fourths are old fallow. The *kharif* harvest covers nearly 93 per cent. of the cultivated area, and the *rabi* over 15 per cent., over 7 per cent. being twice cropped in the year: the *zaid* crops occupy on an average only some 500 acres. Irrigation, though not as extensive as in Lalitpur tahsil, is practised chiefly in the red soil tracts to the north and east, and some 10,600 acres are normally watered, chiefly from wells.

In 1865 the population was returned at 110,472 persons. This fell to 93,664 in 1872 as a result of the famine of 1868, but rose

to 110,572 in 1881. By 1891 there had been a further rise to 117,047, and in 1901 this fell again to 103,851. Classified according to religions there were 98,061 Hindus, 4,088 Jains, 1,684 Musalmans, 17 Christians and one Arya. Among the Hindus the most numerous castes were Chamars 15,584, Kachhis 12,955, Lodhis 10,928, Brahmans 8,469 and Rajputs 6,554. Other castes represented by over 2,000 members were Gadariyas, Kurmis, Nais, Telis, Barhais, Basors and Dabgars.* Among the Rajput clans, the Bundela far exceed all others with 1,960 persons, and are followed by Panwars with 991 : no other clans except the Bais have more than 200 representatives. The Rajputs are far the most important landholders in the tahsil, and after them come Brahmans and Lodhis. Almost the whole population is devoted to agriculture and kindred pursuits.

There are 300 villages but only one town in the tahsil, namely that of Mahroni, which has been separately noticed. Other important villages are Banpur, Bar, Kelgawan, Sindwaha, Sonjna, Narhat, Guna, Madaora, Girar and Madanpur. There are many places of archæological interest in the tahsil, especially to the south. Chandel remains exist at Budhni-Narhat, Daulatpur, Gurha (near Khiria), Sonrai, the deserted site of Markhera, Madanpur, Banpur and Gugarwara. Old Bundela forts are to be found at Mahroni, Maigawan, Bar and Kelgawan. Other places which contain antiquarian ruins are Hadda (an old well of peculiar construction attributed to the Gonds), Jharaota, Narhat, Nimkhera, Parol, Uldhana Kalan, Burhi, Dasrara, Bartala and Bilata.

Details of the revenue demand at successive settlements will be found in the appendix. The tahsil is for administrative purposes in charge of the subdivisional officer at Lalitpur, and the police jurisdiction is divided between the circles of Banpur, Bar, Mahroni, Sonjna, Madaora, Girar, Lalitpur and Narhat. Communications are fair. The only metalled road is that which runs from Lalitpur to Tehri *viâ* Mahroni, and its southern extension from that town to Madaora. There is however, a large

* Dabgars, which seem peculiar to this tahsil, are the caste which make the raw hide jars in which oil, *ghi*, etc., are clarified. They are also known as *kuppesas* from *kuppa*, the leather vessel which they make. They have a Hindu and Muhammadan section. A subcaste is known as *Bankar*. They are probably an occupational offshoot from the chamars, *vide* Crooke "Tribes and Castes," Vol II, p. 285.

number of unmetalled roads, whose utility depends on the character of the soil over which they go. The chief of these are those from Mahroni to Narhat, Mahroni to Banpur and thence to Bansi, and Gugarwara to Kelgawan and Banpur. The railway does not touch any portion of the tahsil. A list of ferries, fairs, roads, markets, schools and post offices will be found in the appendix.

MAU, *Tahsil* MAU.

The headquarters of the tahsil is situated in 25° 15′ N. and 79° 9′ E. at a distance of 39 miles from Jhansi, on the Jhansi-Nowgong road. Metalled roads run northwards to Gursarai and southwards to Tikamgarh, while unmetalled roads connect it with Garautha *viâ* Markuan, and with Ghat Lahchura. The town is usually known as Mau-Ranipur from the town of Ranipur situated about 4 miles to the west, and lies close to the confluence of the Suprar and Sukhnai *nadis*. There is a railway station on the Jhansi-Manikpur section of the Great Indian Peninsula railway to the north of the town, and some six miles to the west there is another station known as Ranipur Road. The town is, however, separated from its railway station by the Sukhnai river which is here crossed only by a causeway at or below the bed level of the stream, the bridge over the river on the Jhansi-Nowgong road lying three miles further down the stream.

The town may fairly be described as a remarkably picturesque one: its houses are well built, of durable materials, in a style peculiar to Bundelkhand, with deep eaves of considerable beauty between the first and second storeys, of pleasing outline throughout, with here and there a balcony-hung window, which is very effective. Many temples serve to ornament the town, though some are hidden from view. The Jain temple, however, is an exception and presents a fine appearance with its two solid spires and many cupolas. Some trees mix with the houses and their foliage forms a pleasing contrast, and lends an appearance of freshness and neatness not often seen in an Indian town. The principal roadway runs from east to west. Entering from the former direction, the road is at first narrow, but soon opens out into a wide metalled thoroughfare, leading up to the *ganj*, a

large open space, which is also known as the Lal Bazar from the reddish-brown colour of the masonry shop fronts which line it on two sides. An old fort with bastions and the *sarai* line the third side of the *ganj* space; and on the fourth are two plain shrines. The *ganj* space has been laid out with trees and drained: the shops on two sides are well built, with plain arched fronts, and are the property of the municipality. The *sarai* is a wide square, with masonry built travellers' quarters on all sides, having low pillared fronts and good tiled roof. Westward of the *ganj* the main road passes with a winding course to the Bara Bazar, consisting of three or four streets of well-built shops. In the time of the Marathas Mau was partially fortified with a high stone wall, but the fortifications were never apparently completed, and the wall, which may be best seen with its gateway to the south outskirt, has in good part been dug down, and the stones used for bridge-making and other purposes in and about the town. The southern portion of the place consists principally of a large mud built Ahirs' quarter, the householders and their people being principally cultivators. On the north-west side the town is skirted by the Suprar *nadi*: on the north side by the Sukhnai *nadi*; and between the two there is a deep *nala* which divides old Mau from new Mau and passes into the Suprar. These channels have wide beds of reddish sand with quite clear water running down the centre during a part of the year, but generally dry after March. They serve admirably to drain the site, which is well raised and is not subject to flooding.

Till the latter part of the eighteenth century Mau was little but a small agricultural village. In the time of Raghunath Rao Hari, *subahdar* of Jhansi, the inhabitants and merchants of Chhatarpur, unable to bear any longer the exorbitant demands of the Raja of that place, fled to Mau, where they were welcomed by the *subahdar*, and established themselves on his assurance that they would be well treated and not subjected to heavy taxation. The place was sacked by the Pindaris about 1816, and during the Mutiny suffered considerably at the hands of the Orchha troops and rebel bands from Hamirpur, but it was at that time the largest town in the Jhansi district. In 1865 it had

a population of 19,410 persons, in 1872 of 16,428, in 1881 of 22,827, in 1891 of 19,675 and in 1901 of 17,231. It was constituted a municipality in combination with Ranipur in 1869, and has remained such under the successive Municipal Acts. For election purposes the combined towns are divided into four wards, known as Parwaripura, Gardhuriaganj, Katra and Ranipur, each returning two members: Mau itself is divided into sixteen *muhallas**.

The tahsil offices and the police station, which is of the first-class, are situated in the fort. Besides these there is a flourishing vernacular secondary school, and five other educational institutions of various sorts, as well as a dispensary, cattle pound, an inspection bungalow, encamping-ground, and a combined post and telegraph office. The population classified according to religions consisted in 1901 of 15,258 Hindus, 1,657 Musalmans, 308 Jains, five Christians and three persons of unspecified religions. The Jains form rather an important community in the town, and are largely devoted to trade. Mau was till the construction of the railway a large trade centre, but the opening of the lines through Jhansi has diverted to that place most of the traffic which formerly passed from Central India to the Doab, *viâ* Mau, Saiyidnagar and Kalpi. Its merchants and bankers are said to have had correspondents in Amraoti, Mirzapur, Nagpur, Indore, Farrukhabad, Hathras, Kalpi and Cawnpore, and in 1870 its exports were estimated at fourteen and its imports at eleven lakhs of rupees, consisting chiefly of sugar, salt, piecegoods, spices, iron, tobacco and vegetable dyes. It was itself noted for the manufacture of *kharua* cloth, the dye for which was furnished by the *al* plant, once extensively planted in the neighbourhood. The latter has been killed by the competition of aniline dyes, and the manufacture of *kharua* cloth is now a declining industry. *Kharua* consists of *aikri*, a coarse strong cloth made by Koris in Mau and the neighbourhood, dyed red by Dhobis and Chhippis. Besides *kharua*, there used to be also manufactured *chanti*, a coarse white cloth; *patri*, a fine white cloth, which when dyed

* Purani Mau, Sheoganj, Sheoganj-ka-tila, Bari Kuriant; Subangran, Parwaripura, Bajpai, Bazar Sarrafi, Gardhuriaganj, Chamraura, Bazar Najhai, Purani Bailhai, Alhiai Katra, Chhipait, Damila, Pathakpura.

red was called *salu*; *zamurdi*, a coarse black or red cloth used for petticoats; *kasbi*, a coarse red cloth bordered with black and yellow, also used for petticoats; *pati*, a narrow cloth made from coloured thread; and *churiyi*, a variety of *pati*, only broader. The town, however, still enjoys a considerable trade in agricultural produce, its exports being chiefly gram or pulses, oilseeds and *ghi*, and its imports sugar, salt, piecegoods and wheat. In the dark half of *Bhadon* a large fair called the *Jalbehar mela* is celebrated on the banks of the Sukhnai river; and there is also an important cattle fair held here. The town is a fairly healthy one, but the water supply is bad. The details of income and expenditure, since 1891, under the various heads will be found in the appendix.*

MAU *Tahsil.*

Pargana and tahsil Mau, lies in the south-east of Jhansi proper between the parallels of 25° 6′ and 25° 29′ N. and 78° 49′ and 79° 19′ E. On the north it adjoins Garautha and the states of Tori Fatehpur, Bijna and Dhurwai; the Dhasan forms the eastern boundary, separating it from the Hamirpur district and the states of Alipura, Bihat and Garrauli: to the south and south-west it marches with Orchha territory, the boundary being very irregular and two long narrow peninsulas stretching into that state and three small blocks being entirely surrounded by its territory. It has a total area of 280,743 acres or 440·2 square miles. The southern portion is generally wild and hilly, dotted with artificial lakes and fertile irrigated valleys, but displaying also great tracts of barren waste. These characteristics are most pronounced in the south-west corner, a tract very similar to the southern part of Jhansi tahsil, where the hills are more extensive than elsewhere, the ground undulating, stony and broken by ravines, and the soil practically all *rakar*. In the northern portion of the *tahsil*, the scene is very different. Though still crossed by hills, the country is more open and level, and fairly well wooded. The chief soils are now *mar*, *kabar*, and *parua*. The last named is found in long strips bordering the streams, especially along the Dhasan river, and in the centre of the tahsil. The further north we

* Appendix, table XVI.

move the darker the soil becomes. The best *mar* is found in the centre of the level tracts and continues generally so long as the ground is flat and not cut up by streams. As soon as a stream or *nala* is reached the ground undulates and the soil deteriorates, first gradually into *kabar* and then into *rakar*. The main range of hills runs in a long line northwards from Katera to Bhasneh, with the lakes of Kachneh, Magarwara and Pachwara at its base. Scattered groups of hills are frequent elsewhere, more especially south-west of Mau town, and have facilitated the construction of numerous tanks, the most important of which is that at Arjar. A series of *nalas* crosses the pargana diagonally from the south-west to the north-east, those to the east falling ultimately into the Dhasan and those to the west into the Betwa. The largest and most distinctive is the Lakheri *nadi*, but the Dareri, Sukhnai, Suprar, Karar and Ur are also large, and bring down heavy floods, and greatly scour the villages along their banks. Their numerous tributaries so break up the pargana that it is not easy to find any large continuous stretch of good land, and there are few villages of any size in which part of the area is not cut up by streams.

Of the total area, 39,906 acres or 14·2 per cent. are classified as barren waste, while 26,845 acres or over 9 per cent. are covered with groves or are culturable waste. The average area under the plough is some 108,927 acres, and some 6,460 acres are normally double-cropped. Nearly 33 per cent. of the total area of the tahsil is returned as ordinarily lying fallow. Irrigation is a factor of some importance; and in this respect Mau takes a high place among the tahsils of the district, for approximately 9,340 acres on the average are watered, and this amount expands largely in dry years. The system of cultivation differs considerably in the northern and southern portions of the tahsil. In the latter, wherever possible, in the valleys and plots of level ground, wells have been constructed, which are universally worked by the Persian wheel. By the aid of these and by careful manuring and fencing, small millets are grown in the rains, followed by *pisiya* wheat and barley in the winter. In lowlying lands saturated with moisture, especially in the beds or below the embankments of lakes, gram and *masur* can be grown without irrigation, but outside the

influence of irrigation and saturation *rabi* crops are impossible in this tract. In the *kharif* owing to the inferiority of the soil and the difficulty of protecting the fields from the ravages of wild animals, *juar* and cotton are grown only to a limited extent; but the slopes and broken ground are covered with small millets, generally *kodon*, while *tili*, *urd*, and *mung*, are not uncommon, and rice occupies the centres of the valleys. In the north, wherever *parua* predominates, *juar* is grown and occasionally gram unirrigated, but otherwise the products are inferior. *Tili* and the small millets are, after *juar*, more common in the *kharif* than cotton; and on the worst soil a little *bajra* is found. Where there is a large stretch of *mar*, wheat and gram mixed are commonly put in, with gram and linseed in lighter soil on the outskirts. In the *kharif*, *juar* is universal, and is followed at a long interval by cotton and *til*. Of the total cultivated area some 95,662 acres or over 87 per cent. are normally devoted to the autumn, and 18,893 acres or 17 per cent. to the *rabi* harvest: some while 480 acres on the average are occupied by *zaid* crops.

The chief cultivating castes are Rajputs, Kachhis, Chamars, Ahirs and Kurmis. Thirty-five per cent. of the cultivated area is in the hands of the proprietors, 32 per cent. in those of tenants-at-will, and 29 per cent. is held by occupancy tenants, the remainder being rent-free or nominally rented. This serves to indicate that the bulk of the land is owned by cultivating proprietary communities, and in fact the only large proprietor in the tahsil is the Raja of Katera. The tahsil contains 710 villages, divided into 365 *mahals*, 12 of which are revenue free. Of this number 129 are held in joint *zamindari*, 114 in impefect, *pattidari*, 24 in perfect *pattidari*, six in *bhaiyachara*, and only 92 in single *zamindari* tenure. The largest landholders are Rajputs and Brahmans, and in this tahsil there is a greater variety of Rajput clans with numerous representatives than in any other.

In 1872 the tahsil had a population of 104,281 persons. It steadily increased to 107,151 in 1881, and to 115,724 in 1891, but at the last enumeration in 1901, was found to have fallen to 100,298, of which 49,617 were females. The average density amounts to 228 persons per square mile, and varies between 260

in the *parua*, 234 in the *mar*, and 214 in the *rakar* tract. The rate, however, is somewhat inflated by the inclusion of the population of Mau-Ranipur. Classified according to religions, there were 94,061 Hindus, 5,340 Musalmans, 881 Jains, 10 Christians, three Aryas, and three Sikhs. Among the Hindus the most numerous castes were Chamars 14,608, Kachhis 13,031, Brahmans 9,975, Koris 8,397, and Rajputs 6,785, while Ahirs, Gadariyas, Kurmis, Ahars, Banias, Telis and Dhobis all numbered over 2,000 each. The chief Rajput clans represented were Parihars, followed at a long interval by Bundelas, Bais, Gaurs, Janwars, and Sengars. Here as elsewhere the Muhammadans form a very small proportion of the population, Sheikhs and Behnas predominating. The tahsil is almost entirely agricultural in character, though Mau-Ranipur is a centre of considerable though diminishing importance. There are, however, a larger number than elsewhere of persons engaged in cotton weaving and spinning, chiefly in the neighbourhood again of Mau.

The only town in the tahsil is the municipality of Mau-Ranipur, but there are a few other places of size and importance. Katera is the seat of a Raja; Arjar, Siaori, Magarwara, Kachneh, and Pachwara are famous for their tanks; while Uldan and Ghat Lahchura have police stations. The markets, fairs, ferries, schools, and post-offices of the tahsil are shown in the appendix. Mau has still a considerable trade in *ghi*, cotton, and cloth.

With the exception of the *rakar* tract in the south, where there are only very poor roads, the tahsil is well supplied with communication. The Nowgong-Jhansi metalled road traverses it from east to west and the newly metalled road from Gursarai to Mau crosses centrally from north to south. The Jhansi-Manikpur section of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway which follows closely the alignment of the Nowgong road has four stations in it or close to its boundaries, namely Mau Ranipur road, Teharka and Arjar. Besides this a metalled road runs southwards to Tikamgarh from Mau and unmetalled roads run northwards to Garautha past Markuan, and eastwards towards Rath over the Dhasan *viâ* Ghat Lahchura. Another road runs from Katera past Uldan to Taraoli and so to Erachh.

The early history of the tahsil is bound up with that of the district. The only change made in its boundaries since the British occupation was the addition to it in 1866 of the bulk of the old pargana of Pandwaha. For administrative purposes the tahsil constitutes a subdivision in the charge of a full-powered officer on the district staff. In police matters the jurisdiction is divided between the circles of Mau, Uldau, Ghat Lahchura, Katera and Barwa Sagar.

MOTH, *Tahsil* MOTH.

The headquarters of the tahsil of the same name lies in 25° 45′ N. and 78° 78′ E., at a distance of 32 miles from Jhansi on the Cawnpore trunk road. Other roads connect it with Gursarai, Bhander and Punchh. Besides the tahsili the town contains a first-class police station, post-office, school and inspection bungalow. The population in 1865 numbered 3,209 persons, in 1872, 3,288, in 1881, 3,395, in 1891, 3,052, and in 1901 had fallen to 2,937: of this number 2,528 were Hindus. The town has been administered since 1863 under Act XX of 1856, and has an average income of Rs. 600. This is derived mainly from a house-tax and is expended in the maintenance of a small conservancy staff, a police force and in simple works of improvement. There is a railway station on the Jhansi-Cawnpore section of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and also the ruins of a fort built by the Gosains, whose history is given in the pargana notice.

MOTH *Tahsil.*

Moth tahsil forms the north-western portion of the Jhansi district and lies between the parallels of 25° 32′ and 25° 50′ N. and 78° 46′ and 79° 7′ E. It has a total area of 178,747 acres or 279·3 square miles. Intermixed as it is with blocks of land belonging to the states of Orchha, Samthar, Datia, Tori-Fatehpur, Dhurwai and Bijna, the boundaries are not very definite; but roughly speaking may be described as the Gwalior state and Jhansi *tahsil* to the west and south-west, and the Garautha tahsil and Orchha on the east and south-west. On the north lie Samthar and the Jalaun district. There is a large inclave of land, south-west of Moth town, round the village of Amra, which belongs to Samthar, and a

smaller one at Pandori belonging to Datia: on the other hand at Khilli Khilli-Tanti, Punchh and Nari the pargana possesses four isolated tracts, the last of which is contiguous to Kunch tahsil in the Jalaun district.

The main block of the pargana lies between the Betwa, which crosses it diagonally from the south-west, and the Pahuj which separates it from Gwalior state. The wedge-shaped tract between these two rivers, excluding a fringe of ravines and broken ground along the Betwa, is a level treeless stretch of *kabar* and *parua* approximating to the soil of northern Jhansi on the boundary of that pargana and darkening to blocks of *mar* on the north and north-west. It is diversified here and there by steep red hills, and rocks are nowhere far from the surface. The eastern portion of the tahsil has much in common with Garautha, to which it was originally attached. It is not much infested by ravines, undulates slightly and abounds in good black wheat-growing soil liable to frequent invasions of *kans.* This portion in practically separated from the rest by a high rocky ridge, which, commencing in Sagauli, runs south-westwards parallel to the river towards the fort of Kurar, from which it takes its name. It is covered for the most part with low thorny scrub and is the resort of numerous pig, to which the ravines and scattered patches of thorn jungle also afford ample cover. The tract is a very mixed one. Bits of good *mar* occasionally stretch back from the valley of the Betwa into the uplands; but in most of the village ravine action is draining away the best of the soil and leaving the land thickly strewn with *kankar* nodules. The whole *tahsil* may be said to lie in the valley of the Betwa, as the slope to the Pahuj to the west is inappreciable, the watershed lying within a very short distance of its bed, which is flanked by low banks. The Betwa flows in a rocky channel between high precipitous cliffs. Its bed changes little, but the maze of ravines along either bank cause great deterioration in the adjoining country. The effects are most marked on the left bank, but the ravines are steadily cutting back on either side into villages which are too poor and scantily populated to check their ravages. The chief tributary *nalas* are the Ganukha and Dunao in the north, the Barwar draining the central portion of

the western tract and the Gairao to the south. None of these, however, has a permanent flow of water, and it is only after heavy rain that they interrupt communications.

Of the total area of the tahsil 28,736 acres or 16 per cent. are recorded as barren waste, while 15,992 acres or nearly 9 per cent. are covered with groves or returned as culturable waste. The cultivated area normally amounts to 61,400 acres, and the area of old and new fallow to 58,000 acres. Cultivation attains very different standards in the different tracts included in the pargana. On the Garautha boundary, where there is good *mar* soil, wheat is largely grown. In the tract between the Kurar hills and the Betwa cotton is the great stand-by in the inferior soil, and gram is the only representative of the winter crops. Where the black deposit has been entirely washed off the hard clay below is reached, which receives no help from irrigation: and alike on it and on the refuse soil of the slopes the poorer *kharif* grains, *tili*, *kodon*, *urd* and *mung*, acquire importance. In the main black soil block to the north, the wheat crop is the best yielded in this portion of the district. There are few wells, but the gentle eastward slope of the tract enables the land in many villages to be fertilised by field-to-field embankments. Further to the south the black deposit gets thinner, and about the middle of the tahsil the dark superstructure and the light coloured clayey soil underneath amalgamate into a greyish loam of considerable fertility. Cultivation is close, and all the common *rabi* and *kharif* crops are grown in a rough alternation. Irrigation gives capital results where tried, but the depth of the water-level generally stands in its way, while the only lake in the pargana, that at Pipra, has been formed by damming up a gap in the Kurar ridge. Consequently the irrigated area is the smallest in the district, with the exception of tahsil Garautha. Although the Betwa canal passes through the tahsil, it only attains command of the surface at the northern corner. Consequently irrigation from the canal is variable and fitful, and of the average irrigated area of 2,650 acres the bulk is garden land watered from wells. Double cropping throughout the tahsil is rare, and is confined almost entirely to irrigated land where wheat or barley is preceded by *sawan* and *phikar*, and

to rice plots where gram and *masur* can be sown in the winter after good rains: the area averages only some 2,200 acres. Of the total cropped area over the whole tahsil 73 per cent. is normally devoted to *kharif* and 30 per cent. to *rabi* crops.

There are 152 villages in the tahsil, including 18 which belong to the Gursarai estate. If these 18 villages and *mahals* are disregarded, there remain 262 *mahals*, of which 54 are held in single, 88 in joint *zamindari*, 25 in perfect *pattidari*, 94 in imperfect *pattidari* and one only is *bhaiyachara*. There are no large landed proprietors in the pargana, and the great majority of the villages are held by proprietary communities with numerous co-sharers of much the same standing as their own tenants. The only important exceptions are the Dhundhera Rajputs of Patti Kumharra and the heirs of the late Rao Gobind Ram of Chirgaon. The chief proprietary castes are Lodhis, Ahirs, Kurmis, Brahmans and Rajputs; and those who cultivate most largely are, in addition to these, Kachhis, Dangis and Chamars. At the recent settlement 37 per cent. of the cultivated area was in the hands of the proprietors; a like quantity in those of occupancy and exproprietary tenants, while less than 22 per cent. was held by tenants-at-will. The revenue demand at the present time and that at previous settlements will be found in the appendix.

The population of the tahsil increased steadily from 55,391 in 1872 to 57,208 in 1881 and 59,089 in 1891. At the last enumeration in 1901 it was ascertained that there had been a fall to 55,638. The average density is therefore just under 200 per square mile, varying between 392 in the strong upland communities between the Betwa and Pahuj, and only 65 in the inferior Betwa-side villages which are cut up by innumerable ravines. Classified according to religions there were 53,265 Hindus, 2,119 Musalmans, 237 Jains, 8 Sikhs, 5 Aryas and four Christians. Among the Hindus Lodhis are the most numerous caste with 7,826 members, followed closely by Chamars with 7,703, Brahmans 6,023, Kachhis 5,393, Ahirs 4,454 and Koris 2,609. No other caste had over 2,000 representatives, though Kurmis numbered 1,959 and Gadariyas 1,875. Rajputs only amounted to 1,009, the largest clan among them being the Bundela with

only 313 representatives. Among the small Musalman population Sheikhs and Behnas predominate. The tahsil is almost wholly agricultural in character, and almost the whole population is either dependent directly on cultivation or is connected with trade in agricultural produce; there are no manufactures of any importance.

The only towns in the tahsil are those of Moth, the headquarters of the tract, and Chirgaon, both of which are administered under Act XX of 1856. There are, however, a few places of importance otherwise such as Erichh, Punchh, Baghaira, Talor and Kargawan. The chief market is that of Chirgaon, an improving town with a considerable trade, while Punchh is also a mart for Gursarai and Garautha. Moth itself is a place of no importance, and Erachh has greatly decayed. Bhander is a considerable town, which once gave its name to a tahsil and lies just beyond the borders of the pargana. Lists of the schools, post-offices, markets and fairs will be found in the appendix.

West of the Betwa communications are excellent. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway and the Jhansi-Cawnpore road traverse the pargana from north to south; and there are four railway stations, namely, at Punchh, Moth, Nandkhas and Chirgaon, situated within its limits. Metalled and unmetalled roads radiate to the north and south-east both from Moth and Chirgaon. East of the Betwa the only metalled road is that connecting Punchh with Gursarai and crossing the Betwa at Erachh, but in dry weather the river can be negotiated at Khiria-*ghat* and Ramnagar, which are connected with Gursarai on the one side and with Chirgaon or Moth on the other by fair unmetalled roads. In the rains, however, the river is usually impassable, and the roads passing through *mar* tracts are quagmires, so that cart traffic has to be suspended. A list of all the roads and ferries will be found in the appendix.

In the days of Akbar the pargana must have fallen partly within the *mahal* of Erachh and partly in that of Bhander: part was probably in the independent control of the Bundelas. In the year 1744-45, soon after the division of territories between Naru Shankar and the Raja of Orchha, Moth khas, which with most of the villages in the neighbourhood was then in the

possession of the Datia state, was seized by Raja Indargir, a Gosain. This chief built a fort, and in the course of a few years had annexed from the Datia and Orchha states 114 villages. The Rajas applied to Naru Shankar for assistance, and Naru Shankar sent a force against him. The fort was surrendered and all the villages were made over to Naru Shankar, none being restored to the Rajas. In 1755 A.D. Anupgir, the heir and *chela* of Indargir, reconquered 99 villages, including Moth khas and its fort: 5 years later Naru Shankar regained possession, only to be again expelled by the Gosain in 1762 A.D. In 1766 A.D. at a large darbar held at Gohad by the Peshwa, pargana Moth, which then included 77 villages, was assigned as a *jagir*, with the consent of Anupgir, to Naru Shankar. On the latter's death Anupgir again invaded and retook the pargana. He held possession till 1787 A.D. and by annexation increased the number of villages to 123. He was, however, driven out by Rang Rao Raja Bahadur, the grandson of Naru Shankar, during whose time the number of villages was reduced to 46. In 1824 A.D. the pargana was farmed by Raja Bahadur to Ram Chand Rao, Raja of Jhansi, and in 1839, when the latter's estates were taken under direct management, Moth passed into the charge of the superintendent of the Jhansi state. In 1843, when the state was restored to Gangadhar Rao, Moth was placed in the hands of the superintendent of Jalaun, and in 1854 was incorporated finally in the newly formed Jhansi district. It then included 73 villages and the Chirgaon *taluqa* of 26 villages. It was first settled by Captain Gordon, who assessed Rs. 65,162 on the 67 revenue-paying villages. This sum, together with Rs. 22,589 on the Chirgaon *taluqa* and 5 villages transferred from other parganas, brought up the whole demand to Rs. 91,151 on 104 villages, 6 of which were revenue-free. The pargana was considerably altered after the transfer and exchange of territory in 1886, and at the settlement of 1892 consisted of 134 villages, exclusive of the Gursarai estate, which were assessed to a revenue of Rs. 1,28,065: at the recent revision the demand was reduced to Rs. 99,085.

For administrative purposes the tahsil forms a subdivision which is generally in the charge of a full-powered officer on the

district staff: the police administration is divided between the circles of Moth, Chirgaon, Erachh and Baghera.

NARHAT, *Pargana* MADAORA, *Tahsil* MAHRONI.

A large village, lying in 24° 25′ N. and 78° 33′E. immediately at the foot of the Vindhyan hills, 22 miles south of Lalitpur and two miles from Guna on the Lalitpur-Saugor road, with which it is connected by a branch metalled road. Unmetalled roads run to Mahroni, 18 miles, and Madanpur, 16 miles. The place is the residence of the Narhat *ubaridars*, of whom some account has been given in chapter III, and the ruins of an old fort surmount the village. It contains a second-class police station, post-office and school; and the Village Sanitation Act (U. P. Act II of 1892) is in force. The population in 1901 numbered 2,101, persons chiefly Kachhis.

NATHI KHERA, *Pargana* TALBEHAT, *Tahsil* LALITPUR.

A small village lying in 25°7′ N. and 78° 32′ E. 32 miles north-east of Lalitpur and 9 miles from Talbehat, with which it is connected by an unmetalled road. It contains a third-class police station, post-office and district bungalow. The population of the place in 1901 was 448 persons, and consisted for the most part of Ahirs, Lodhis and Jains.

PALI, *Pargana* BALABEHAT, *Tahsil* LALITPUR.

A considerable village in 24° 29′ N. and 78° 26′ E. lying at the foot of the Vindhyan hills. It is 14 miles south of Lalitpur, with which it is connected by an unmetalled road leaving the Saugor road at Ghatwar; and is similarly connected with Jakhlon railway station, 7 miles, and Betna, 6 miles. Some account of the place has already been given in connection with the Rajput landholders in chapter III. Of the ancient Bundela fort little now remains except the foundations, and the most interesting feature in the village is the extensive *pan* gardens. The population in 1901 numbered 2,451 persons; and a weekly market is held on Sundays. There is a school in the village and the Village Sanitation Act (U. P. Act II of 1892) is in force. On the top of the scarp about a mile south-west of the site and deep

in the jungle is a Chandel temple dedicated to Nilkanth Mahadeo.

PANDWAHA, *Tahsil* GARAUTHA.

A considerable village in 25° 27′ N. and 79° 10′ E. on the metalled road from Mau to Gursarai, distant 15 miles from Mau, 12 from Garautha and 45 miles from Jhansi *viá* Bhasneh. The place was formerly the headquarters of a tahsil, but this was abolished in 1866; and it now contains a third-class police station, post-office, inspection bungalow and a local encamping-ground. The population in 1901 numbered 1,017 persons, chiefly consisting of Kurmis, who also own the bulk of the village.

PUNCHH. *Tahsil* MOTH.

A village, with a population of 1,767 persons, lying in 25° 48′ N. and 79° 1′ E. It is completely isolated from the rest of the tahsil, and forms one of a number of straggling villages which are surrounded by Samthar territory and ultimately touch the border of Jalaun. The village lies on the Jhansi-Cawnpore main road, at a distance of 40 miles from Jhansi and 9 miles from Moth, and has a railway station on the Cawnpore section of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. It formerly contained a police station, which has now been abolished, but it possesses a post-office, school and police outpost. The bazar is of some importance and a considerable traffic is carried on in agricultural produce. The old fort is a massive structure of mud with high walls and brick bastions; there is a military encamping-ground, and near Khakal, a mile and a halfnorth, a canal bungalow. The Sesa road bungalow lies in Samthar territory, four miles beyond Punchh. The population of the village numbered 1,815 persons in 1901, consisting chiefly of Ahirs, who also own it.

RAKSA, *Tahsil* JHANSI.

A small village lying in 25° 27′ N. and 78° 29′ E. on the Jhansi-Sipri road, and distant seven miles from Jhansi. In 1901 it had a population of 1,537 persons, the bulk of whom were Lodhis and Ahirs, and contains a third-class police station and school. The village is owned by resident Panwar Rajputs. Near the village

is a small dilapidated brick-built fort. The place is famous as the site of the experiments in embanking to prevent the erosion of the soil by *nalas* carried out by Mr. G. E. Ward in 1889. These have already been described.

RANIPUR, *Tahsil* MAU.

A town 2½ miles south of the Jhansi-Nowgong road, 36 miles from Jhansi and four from Mau, with which it is combined to form one union, administered as a municipality. The site lies in 25° 15′ N. and 79° 5′ E., on the left bank of the Sukhnai *nadi*, which here has a clean sandy bed, carrying a narrow stream of clear water. The town for the most part is built amongst shallow ravines, which run down to the stream and serve admirably to drain it. The main road passes from east to west and is drained by square deep drains in old style. For a considerable distance it passes between poor mud-built huts, so that the first aspect of the town is that of a place of little importance; but at the western end, after making a sudden turn, it opens into a fine bazar, with handsome masonry shops on either side. The houses, like those of Mau, are old and picturesque, and the pleasing effect is increased by the existence of a small Jain temple on each side of the road, about the centre of the bazar. Outside the town to the east is a small high raised brick fort of Maratha times, which used to be inhabited by a deputy magistrate stationed in the place and now belongs to the American mission. On the northern side, well away from the town, there exists a large enclosure, called the encamping-ground, which contains a large well with a thick *gola*.

The population of Ranipur in 1865 numbered 8,128 persons. This number fell to 6,695 in 1872; and at the last enumeration in 1901 there were 5,653 inhabitants. For election purposes the town forms a single ward, which returns two members to the municipal board. Ranipur was founded in 1678 A.D. by Rani Hira Deva, widow of Raja Pahar Singh of Orchha, but was plundered and nearly destroyed 25 years later by Amir Beg of Indore. Subsequently Rani Amar Kunwar of Orchha persuaded the inhabitants to return and settle in it During Maratha rule and the early days of British occupation it shared to some extent the *kharua*

trade and prosperity of Mau, and was the residence of considerable numbers of traders and merchants, chiefly Jains, who still form an important part of the community. The trade, however, has nearly gone and the place is fast decaying. It contains a post-office and a school.

SAKRAR, *Tahsil* MAU.

A small village on the Jhansi-Nowgong road, equidistant from Jhansi and Mau, lying in 25° 20′ N. and 78° 55′ E. In 1901 it possessed a population of 1,633 persons, chiefly Rajputs and Bhils. There was formerly a police station in the village, but it was subsequently abolished: it now contains an inspection bungalow, post-office and school. The owners are a large body of Janwar Rajputs. There is a ruined Chandel *baithak* in the north-west corner of the site, ascribed as usual to Alha and Udal.

SARHUMAR, *Pargana* MADAORA, *Tahsil* MAHRONI.

A large village with a population of 1,184 persons, lying in 24° 25′ N. and 78° 47′ E., 31 miles south-east of Lalitpur and three miles north of Madaora. The village contains a school and several Jain temples. There is here also a *sati* stone, dated *sambat* 1813 or 1756 A.D., bearing the name of the Emperor Alamgir, which is interesting because it incidentally states that Sarhumar was then in pargana Dhamoni. The owners of the village are the Seths of Bamrana; and the population, numbering 1,184 persons, is chiefly composed of Kachhis.

SIAORI, *Tahsil* MAU.

A considerable village lying in 25° 20′ N. and 79° 7′ E. at the point where the branch road from Ranipur joins the main road from Mau to Gursarai. In 1901 it had a population of 2,339 persons. It contains a canal inspection bungalow, school and post-office; and is important as the site of a tank, which is being considerably enlarged by the Irrigation department. The tank as originally improved in 1906 at a cost of Rs. 86,300, has a storage capacity of 244 million cubic feet and a water spread of 654 acres, the water being capable of irrigating some 2,300 acres.

It is now proposed to raise the cill of the tank by two feet, increasing the storage capacity thereby to 305 million cubic feet and the water-spread to 754 acres, at a cost of Rs. 7,427. Besides this the provision of irrigating channels for the distribution of the water will cost about Rs. 28,300, the irrigating capacity of the tank being increased to 3,000 acres.

SIRAS GHAT, *Pargana* TALBEHAT, *Tahsil* LALITPUR.

This *ghat* lies in 25° 7′ N. and 78° 23′ E., 33 miles north of Lalitpur on the old unmetalled road to Jhansi. It was the only ferry between Lalitpur and Jhansi where carts could cross during the rains, and then only when the river was not in heavy flood, until the Dhukwan weir held up the water at Jharar *ghat*, so that a ferry there became possible. The name is derived from the village of Siras on the left bank in Gwalior territory; and there is a district bungalow on the Lalitpur side, in the lands of *mauza* Kaprenr Khurd.

SIRON KALAN, *Pargana* BANSI, *Tahsil* LALITPUR.

A small village with a population of 537 persons, chiefly Ahirs, lying in 25° 52′ N. and 78° 20′ E., 12 miles north-west of Lalitpur. It was originally an extensive town, as evidenced by the ruins that are scattered about far and wide. Sculptured relics, chiefly Jain, are lying neglected or collected in different places. *Santanatha* is a Bundela temple, inside which the walls, columns and the image belong to an older structure: the last is a colossal standing *Tirthankara*, flanked by two smaller ones. In the centre of several modern temples is the basement of an older shrine, where a large slab about 6 feet square stands exposed, bearing an inscription, in which are recorded the names of several Kanauj monarchs, Bhoja, Mahipal and others, and which gives eight dates, ranging from *sambat* 960 to 1025. There is also a *baoli* well close by with a flight of steps leading to the water. Outside the modern wall of the enclosure are the sites of several temples, and a little beyond, to the north-west, is an interesting small gate, called *Dhobi-ki-Paur* or made of three blocks of stones, two jambs and a lintel, all of which are appropriately carved.

SIRSI, *Pargana* BANSI, *Tahsil* LALITPUR.

A village in 24° 52′ N. and 78° 25′ E., 13 miles north-east of Lalitpur, on the unmetalled road to Jakhaura. It has a population of 880 persons, chiefly Behnas, and contains a school, and a fine old fort, said to have been built 350 years ago. The village is the seat of a *mahant*, the present incumbent of which is Lachhigir, who succeeded his *guru* Mahendragir in 1900, and lives here with a following of some 100 Sanyasis.

SONJNA, *Pargana* AND *Tahsil* MAHRONI.

A large village with a total population of 1,286 persons, chiefly Brahmans, picturesquely situated on a group of low hills in 24° 33′ N. and 78° 55′ E. It is 33 miles east-south-east of Lalitpur and ten miles east of Mahroni, close to the Orchha border. It contains a third-class police station, a post-office and a school.

SONRAI, *Pargana* MADAORA, *Tahsil* MAHRONI.

A large village in 24° 20′ N. and 78° 48′ E. with a population of 1,002 persons, chiefly Kachhis. It is 39 miles south-east of Lalitpur and 5 miles south of Madaora, with which it is connected by an unmetalled road. There is a fine old fort built by Prithvi Singh, Raja of Shahgarh and Garhakotah (1744 to 1753 A.D.), and grandson of Chhattarsal, but it was partially destroyed at the Mutiny. A little to the north of the village is a large garden, now the property of the Government, which was made by Bakht Bali, the last Raja of Shahgarh. This contains a large number of trees of many varieties and several buildings of interest. There are also two Chandel temples to the east, in a fair state of preservation. The occurrence of copper ore near this place has already been noticed in chapter I. The present owners are Panwar Rajputs who are related by marriage to the Raja of Bijawar.

TALBEHAT, *Pargana* TALBEHAT, *Tahsil* LALITPUR.

A town situated in 25° 3′ N. and 78° 26′ E. on the Jhansi-Saugor road. It is the largest place in the subdivision after Lalitpur, and has a railway station on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. It is situated 30 miles from Jhansi and 26 from

Lalitpur, and mile and a half from the railway station. The name derived from a large tank which supplies water for irrigation purposes to several of the surrounding villages, *behat* being in Gond language the equivalent of *ganw*. The greater part of the town lies to the west of a rocky range of hills surmounted by the combined fort and place built by Bharat Sah, second Raja of Bar and first of Chandheri, in 1618 A.D. His son Raja Debi Singh constructed the Singh Bagh in 1687. The place was one of considerable importance in Bundela history. It was captured by Colonel Filose in 1811 after a three months' siege, and then only through the treachery of the *qiladar*, Ballabh Tiwari, who received the village revenue free as reward: his heirs still possess part of it, but not as *muafi*. The fort was reduced to its present state of ruin in 1858 by Sir Hugh Rose. The whole structure is a combined fort, palace and temple, the second of which contains some frescoes. The oldest name of the town is said to have been *Jiriakhera*, whose site lay on the tank side of the hill. Some Chandel remains are found in the neighbourhood, and there is a Pathan tomb called *Dargah*, which has an inscription in old *Togra* characters. Raja Debi Singh seems to have extended the fort, and probably built or completed the *Narsingha* temple, whence the town came to be called *Narsinghpuri*.

The view from the top of the fort westward over the town and eastward over the lake is exceedingly fine. The former spreads out in an orderly array of brick buildings, mostly roofed with tiles, interspersed with trees and temples. Not a few, however, are in ruins, the town never having recovered from the effects of the famine of 1868. Most of the houses are remarkably solid in design, the walls in many instances being built in panels, with deep eaves between the lower and upper storeys, supported by close-set notched trusses. The bazar is situated approximately in the centre of the town and consists of a fairly wide roadway about 150 yards long, lined on each side by low tiled shops. At the southern end is a fine well with steps leading to the water through a passage on one side, and is said to have been made over 300 years ago: it is in good repair but the water is bad.

The tank, which covers about 528 acres, lies to the east of the range of hills and is formed by two short dams, one of which

(the smaller) lies a quarter of a mile to the south of the town: the main road runs over it. It is said to have been constructed, long before the time of the Bundelas, by one Bhura Brahman, and there is a legend to the effect that it would contain no water till a girl (or more than one, according to another account) had been buried beneath the dam. Worship is still paid to the memory of the Brahman in an insular boulder of rock, on which there are some peculiar sculpturings of a rude type. All round the tank, save where the hills rise steeply from it, there is a fringe of irrigated cultivation, beyond which all appears to be jungle. The smaller dam is so constructed as to serve as a waste-weir; and the main embankment lies at the south-east corner of the town and has been now converted into an encamping-ground. At its feet the water is between 20 and 30 feet deep, and below it is a swamp in which rice is grown. The surplus water of the tank and of the town generally drains into the Kherwaho *nala* to the west.

Talbehat has been administered under Act XX of 1856 since 1872. In that year it had a population of 4,813 persons, which during the last thirty years has steadily increased, for at the latest enumeration in 1901 there were 5,693 inhabitants. Classified according to religions there were 5,424 Hindus, 266 Musalmans and three others, Brahmans being the most numerous Hindu caste. Income, which is raised mainly by a house-tax in the usual way, is spent on conservancy, watch and ward and petty works: the average receipts and expenditure amount to some Rs. 600 annually.

TALBEHAT *Pargana, Tahsil* LALITPUR.

Talbehat is the most northerly pargana of the Lalitpur *tahsil.* It has a total area of 181,176 acres or 283 square miles, out of which 42,610 acres or 23·5 per cent. are barren waste, inclusive of 18·5 square miles of reserved forest: 25,648 acres or over 14 per cent. are covered with groves or are culturable waste. Of the total area some 40,000 acres are normally under the plough and 70,000 acres returned as fallow.

The Betwa and the Jamni meet at the northern corner of the pargana, which, in common with the greater part of pargana Bansi, has the typical conformation of a Bundelkhand red soil

tract. Narrow ridges running for the most part from north to south are a marked feature of the landscape, the most important of which is that from Talbehat to the north lying parallel to the course of the Betwa. Besides these ridges scattered hills are everywhere of frequent occurrence, combining near Nathikhera Haraspur and Bijrotha to form several fairly large blocks of forest. The timber is, however, of a very poor type owing to the shallow soil and scanty supply of water, so that the prevalent impression is that of a stony and thorny waste with small areas of well irrigated *tareta* adjoining scattered sites. Here and there the rugged conformation of the country has been taken advantage of to form tanks, the most important of which is that at Talbehat. They give as a rule but little irrigation, but are very valuable as tending to keep up the water-level in the wells and as drinking places for cattle. Many *nalas* traverse the pargana and carry off the drainage into the Betwa and Shahzad: but all are small, unimportant watercourses except the Kherar *nadi*, which falls into the Betwa near Kotra.

The chief crops grown are the small millets, mostly *kodon* and rice in the *kharif*, and wheat and barley in mixture or gram in the *rabi*. The double-cropped area is usually, with the exception of Jhansi tahsil, the largest in the district and covers normally some 12,000 acres. Ordinarily three-fourths of the cropped area is devoted to *kharif* and one-fourth to *rabi* crops. Irrigation is a factor of considerable importance, and a larger area is watered than in any other pargana of the subdivision: normally it amounts to some 12,500 acres, and is mainly carried on from wells by the aid of the Persian wheel and to a less extent from tanks.

The total population of the pargana in 1901 numbered 21,615 persons. The principal market is that at Talbehat, but there is no trade of importance unconnected with agriculture, except that in *ghi;* and the carrying trade on which some villages formerly prospered is now a thing of the past. Coarse fabrics and weapons of some local reputation are still made in Talbehat, but there is now little demand for them. Both the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and the Cawnpore-Saugor metalled road traverse the pargana from north to south, and there is a fair road from

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Talbehat to Pura Kalan and Nathikhera. The subsidiary roads, however, are rocky and bad. The pargana contains 106 villages. Bundela Rajputs own the bulk of the area, while other Rajputs and Brahmans hold most of the remainder. The cultivating castes are mainly Lodhis, Kachhis, Ahirs and Brahmans.

ULDAN, *Tahsil* MAU.

A village in 24°23′N. and 79°3′E., 14 miles north-west of Mau. It has a population of 1,354 persons, and contains a third-class police station, post-office and school, but is otherwise an unimportant place.

Gazetteer of Jhansi.

APPENDIX.

GAZETTEER

OF

JHANSI.

APPENDIX.

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Table I.—*Population by Tahsils*, 1901.

Tahsil.	Total.			Hindus.			Musalmans.			Others.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Jhansi	145,371	76,214	69,157	126,313	65,444	60,869	15,257	8,074	7,183	3,801	2,696	1,105
Mau	100,298	50,681	49,617	94,061	47,550	46,511	5,340	2,643	2,697	897	488	409
Garautha	66,963	33,821	33,142	64,257	32,456	31,801	2,518	1,264	1,254	188	101	87
Moth	55,638	28,079	27,559	53,265	26,849	26,416	2,119	1,090	1,029	254	140	114
Lalitpur ...	144,638	73,318	71,320	135,727	68,821	66,906	3,981	2,051	1,930	4,930	2,446	2,484
Mahroni	103,851	53,184	50,667	98,061	50,201	47,860	1,684	873	811	4,106	2,110	1,996
Total ...	616,759	315,297	301,462	571,684	291,321	280,363	30,699	15,995	14,904	14,176	7,981	6,195

TABLE II.—*Population by Thanas*, 1901.

Name of Thana.	Total population.			Hindus.			Musalmans.			Others.		
	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Sadr Bazar...	7,843	5,237	2,606	3,872	2,340	1,532	2,116	1,266	850	1,855	1,631	224
Jhansi city	34,999	17,488	17,511	28,043	14,102	13,941	6,650	3,228	3,422	306	158	148
New Jhansi	26,457	14,512	11,945	20,036	10,952	9,084	5,220	2,881	2,339	1,201	679	522
Barwa Sagar	20,440	10,428	10,012	19,780	10,071	9,709	487	263	224	173	94	79
Baragaon	17,511	8,890	8,621	17,152	8,696	8,456	339	184	155	20	10	10
Babina	21,934	11,432	10,502	21,296	11,089	10,207	250	142	108	388	201	187
Raksa	14,128	7,275	6,853	13,903	7,144	6,759	211	113	98	14	8	6
Chirgaon	22,657	11,412	11,245	21,839	10,983	10,856	742	385	357	76	44	32
Erachh	16,005	8,099	7,906	15,245	7,721	7,524	736	364	372	24	14	10
Moth	20,305	10,259	10,046	19,594	9,891	9,703	634	325	309	77	43	34
Baghsara	13,593	6,868	6,725	13,144	6,617	6,527	342	195	147	107	56	51
Pandwaha	15,810	8,015	7,795	15,241	7,721	7,520	559	286	273	10	8	2
Kakarwai	11,964	6,065	5,899	11,549	5,850	5,699	384	198	186	31	17	14
Garautha	16,859	8,492	8,367	16,028	8,089	7,939	831	403	428	...	...	...
Gursarai	12,900	6,437	6,463	12,208	6,089	6,119	575	289	286	117	59	58
Uldan	20,127	10,128	9,999	18,989	9,560	9,429	1,113	551	562	25	17	8
Mau	43,896	21,982	21,914	40,827	20,505	20,322	2,732	1,310	1,422	337	167	170
Ghat Lahchura	15,525	7,849	7,676	14,772	7,467	7,305	746	387	359	7	5	2
Kotra	15,317	7,927	7,390	14,378	7,412	6,966	567	301	266	372	214	158
Bansi	9,800	4,955	4,845	9,480	4,784	4,696	116	58	58	204	113	91
Jakhaura	18,682	9,620	9,062	17,588	9,070	8,518	235	140	95	859	410	449
Birdha	14,302	7,196	7,106	13,579	6,842	6,737	381	169	212	342	185	157
Jakhlon	10,237	5,098	5,139	9,797	4,891	4,906	270	124	146	170	83	87

Kelwara	9,609	4,919	4,690	9,259	4,729	4,530	92	55	37	258	135	123
Lalitpur	34,319	17,072	17,247	29,833	14,877	14,956	2,138	1,059	1,079	2,348	1,136	1,212
Dudhai	8,799	4,451	4,348	8,343	4,201	4,142	232	139	93	224	111	113
Narhat	13,519	7,025	6,494	12,661	6,554	6,107	375	215	160	483	256	227
Talbehat	21,615	11,076	10,539	21,047	10,752	10,295	434	248	186	134	76	58
Nathikhera	13,462	6,968	6,494	13,150	6,806	6,344	66	44	22	246	118	128
Bar	27,585	14,305	13,280	26,429	13,678	12,751	323	175	148	833	452	381
Banpur	17,422	8,815	8,607	16,487	8,368	8,119	319	139	180	616	308	308
Mahroni	17,234	8,820	8,414	16,182	8,282	7,900	362	193	169	690	345	345
Sonjna	9,646	4,924	4,722	9,138	4,662	4,476	33	18	15	475	244	231
Girar	7,392	3,783	3,609	7,054	3,612	3,442	70	37	33	268	134	134
Madaora	14,866	7,475	7,391	13,761	6,914	6,847	219	111	108	886	450	436
Total ...	616,759	315,297	301,462	571,684	291,321	280,363	30,899	15,995	14,904	14,176	7,981	6,195

Table III.—*Vital Statistics.*

Year.	Births.				Deaths.			
	Total.	Males.	Fe-males.	Rate per 1,000.	Total.	Males.	Fe-males.	Rate per 1,000.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1891	24,231	12,695	11,636	35·44	21,772	11,627	10,145	31·84
1892	26,170	13,175	12,695	38·28	23,904	12,786	11,118	34·96
1893	25,727	13,341	12,380	37·63	15,190	8,202	6,988	22·22
1894	28,497	14,720	13,777	41 68	22,580	11,905	10,675	33·03
1895	18,224	9,401	8,823	26·66	24,028	12,840	11,188	35·15
1896	20,184	10,416	9,768	29·52	46,077	24,458	21,619	67·40
1897	14,356	7,410	6,946	21·00	23,667	12,350	11,317	59·71
1898	21,409	10,963	10,446	31·32	19,939	10,618	9,321	29·17
1899	31,605	16,177	15,428	46·23	18,307	9,962	8,345	26·78
1900	21,646	11,207	10,439	*31·66	30,306	16,139	14,167	44·33*
1901	19,014	9,776	9,238	30·83	17,865	9,243	8,622	28·96
1902	31,562	16,208	15,354	51·17	18,083	9,239	8,844	29·32
1903	30,089	15,508	14,581	48 78	29,530	15,326	14,204	47·88
1904	35,153	18,226	16,927	56·99	21,510	11,159	10,351	34·87
1905	32,439	16,777	15,662	52 59	22,115	11,562	10,553	35·60
1906	24,091	12,450	11,641	39·18	45,235	23,021	22,214	73·18
1907	28,689	14,888	13,801	46·51	27,916	14,787	13,129	45·26
1908	37,799	19,562	18,237	61·28	27,203	14,487	12,716	44·11
1909								
1910								
1911								
1912								
1913								
1914								
1915								
1916								
1917								
1918								

* The rates from 1891 to 1900 are calculated from the returns of the 1891 census.

TABLE IV.—*Deaths according to cause.*

Year.	Total deaths from—					
	All causes.	Plague.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	Bowel complaints.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1891	21,772	...	140	63	12,288	2,444
1892	23,904	...	2,464	45	12,943	1,677
1893	15,190	...	...	59	8,497	1,206
1894	22,580	...	6	60	13,700	1,629
1895	24,028	...	403	187	15,107	2,184
1896	46,077	...	6,122	1,314	26,151	4,054
1897	23,667	...	1,019	52	21,620	2,982
1898	19,930	...	1	3	13,612	1,158
1899	18,307	...	5	8	11,728	603
1900	30,306	...	1,237	20	20,038	1,477
1901	17,865	...	20	54	12,336	571
1902	18,083	211	14	147	11,264	346
1903	29,530	316	27	103	18,140	1,242
1904	21,510	1,141	...	66	11,716	533
1905	22,115	399	...	887	12,395	556
1906	45,235	...	8,450	1,643	23,923	1,698
1907	27,916	4	14	4	19,412	893
1908	27,203	...	7	3	18,821	677
1909						
1910						
1911						
1912						
1913						
1914						
1915						
1916						
1917						
1918						

TABLE V.—*Statistics of cultivation and irrigation, 1315 Fasli.*

Pargana and tahsil.	Total area.	Waste.	Culturable.	Cultivated. Irrigated. Total.	Canals.	Wells.	Tanks.	Other sources.	Dry.	Total.	Double-cropped.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Jhansi (including Cantt.),	323,359	38,036	195,916	20,306	2	17,199	2,071	1,034	69,101	89,407	10,160
Tahsil Jhansi ...	323,359	38,036	195,916	20,306	2	17,199	2,071	1,034	69,101	89,407	10,160
Mau	280,743	39,906	154,463	13,155	...	8,277	4,605	273	73,219	86,374	5,933
Tahsil Mau ...	280,743	39,906	154,463	13,155	...	8,277	4,605	273	73,219	86,374	5,933
Garautha	297,942	64,070	162,515	412	...	383	...	29	70,945	71,357	287
Tahsil Garautha ...	297,942	64,070	162,515	412		383	...	29	70,945	71,357	287
Moth	178,747	28,736	111,792	3,418	1,470	1,888	...	60	34,801	38,219	934
Tahsil Moth ...	178,747	28,736	111,792	3,418	1,470	1,888	...	60	34,801	38,219	934
Balabehat	121,386	21,099	87,624	414	...	203	207	4	12,249	12,663	341
Bansi	96,153	15,634	58,953	4,849	...	3,951	898	..	16,717	21,566	3,722
Lalitpur	276,716	19,139	184,531	5,329	...	5,090	173	66	69,717	75,046	4,976
Talbehat	181,176	42,610	97,999	11,650	...	10,821	566	263	28,917	40,567	10,368
Tahsil Lalitpur ...	677,431	98,482	429,107	22,242	..	20,065	1,844	333	127,600	149,842	19,407
Mahroni	98,196	5,657	63,993	1,880	...	1,776	..	104	26,666	28,546	1,451
Banpur	209,870	21,702	130,389	9,508	...	8,880	332	296	48,271	57,779	6,787
Madaora	259,705	57,599	144,293	1,435	...	1,346	74	15	56,378	57,813	1,538
Tahsil Mahroni ...	567,771	84,958	338,675	12,823	...	12,002	406	415	131,315	144,138	9,776
District Total ...	2,325,993	354,188	1,392,468	72,356	1,472	59,814	8,926	2,144	506,981	579,337	46,497

TABLE VI.—*Area in acres under the principal crops, Tahsil Jhansi.*

Year.	Rabi. Total.	Rabi. Wheat.	Rabi. Wheat and gram.	Rabi. Wheat and barley.	Rabi. Gram.	Rabi. Barley and gram.	Kharif. Total.	Kharif. Juar, including juar and arhar.	Kharif. Cotton, including cotton and arhar.	Kharif. Kodon.	Kharif. Til.
Fasli.											
1305	28,170	6,367	3,663	7,226	6,647	637	78,743	26,666	2,798	6,072	8,777
1306	37,795	6,813	6,799	7,648	11,842	1,193	82,792	26,270	2,972	9,378	15,830
1307	30,004	6,243	5,096	7,376	7,460	604	74,738	28,719	3,229	8,980	10,555
1308	33,905	6,621	7,126	8,299	8,369	576	83,957	31,917	3,154	8,852	15,018
1309	39,804	7,106	6,116	8,141	14,943	705	88,465	26,539	3,262	9,479	15,924
1310	35,984	7,360	7,877	2,406	9,449	1,122	66,810	32,026	3,240	10,002	13,686
1311	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
1312	46,748	9,712	11,596	2,357	13,257	702	72,955	21,636	2,213	7,520	18,251
1313	28,753	5,875	9,815	1,775	3,714	788	77,567	31,666	2,468	7,983	11,750
1314	30,754	6,721	8,698	7,185	4,567	1,009	87,668	38,100	2,074	6,852	15,515
1315	24,307	6,449	4,324	8,531	1,331	787	74,425	23,723	2,629	7,441	17,914
1316											
1317											
1318											
1319											
1320											
1321											
1322											
1323											
1324											
1325											
1326											

* Under settlement-hence no jinswar prepared.

Table VI—(continued).—*Area in acres under the principal crops, Tahsil Mau.*

Year.	Rabi. Total.	Rabi. Wheat.	Rabi. Wheat and gram.	Rabi. Wheat and barley.	Rabi. Gram.	Rabi. Barley and gram.	Kharif. Total.	Kharif. Juar, including juar and arhar.	Kharif. Cotton, including cotton and arhar.	Kharif. Kodon.	Kharif. Til.
Fasli.											
1305											
1306	24,931	3,240	1,037	3,137	15,900	35	80,121	50,171	6,639	5,979	7,053
1307	29,474	3,261	1,478	2,661	20,153	58	78,329	48,791	8,185	6,518	7,908
1308	31,296	3,812	2,579	2,611	20,301	27	74,594	43,975	8,736	6,270	9,919
1309	27,464	4,290	2,792	2,581	15,987	22	92,548	55,338	9,244	6,772	13,164
1310	40,127	3,630	572	2,558	31,094	34	85,787	46,658	10,349	7,951	13,396
1311	30,376	3,953	1,597	2,318	19,554	13	96,109	57,210	9,277	5,605	16,975
1312	36,213	5,504	3,668	2,102	19,945	32	95,657	56,067	7,433	4,723	21,947
1313	52,546	7,092	8,283	2,747	29,878	34	74,970	43,312	6,485	5,965	13,607
1314	21,047	2,735	2,863	2,017	12,113	84	99,881	65,232	6,645	6,089	15,052
1315	22,818	4,067	3,202	2,316	11,382	78	109,167	77,028	5,486	6,685	10,940
1316	13,881	3,365	1,078	4,308	3,402	187	77,939	45,338	6,175	5,483	15,729
1317											
1318											
1319											
1320											
1321											
1322											
1323											
1324											
1325											
1326											
1327											

TABLE VI—(continued).—*Area in acres under the principal crops, Tahsil Garautha.*

Year.	Rabi. Total.	Rabi. Wheat.	Rabi. Wheat and gram.	Rabi. Wheat and barley	Rabi. Gram.	Rabi. Barley and gram.	Kharif. Total.	Kharif. Juar, including juar and arhar.	Kharif. Cotton, including cotton and arhar.	Kharif. Kodon.	Kharif. Til.
Fasli.											
1305											
1306	26,153	52	792	300	24,024	167	45,384	28,355	7,769	976	3,092
1307	40,535	590	8,948	597	33,156	592	57,842	33,694	12,354	1,434	5,264
1308	45,051	426	5,795	422	36,555	542	49,870	24,441	13,702	1,204	6,707
1309	37,110	544	8,545	552	25,019	440	65,737	34,795	13,352	1,111	10 697
1310	47,200	199	2,325	638	42,459	569	66,085	31,670	16,007	1,174	13 108
1311	43,541	335	5,485	700	33,670	501	75,613	36,606	16,261	972	17,671
1312	50,698	1,605	11,761	874	29,117	1,044	77,049	37,072	14,320	651	20,794
1313	67,461	1,091	21,078	779	40,118	678	52,568	24,593	12,255	1,070	11,411
1314	49,010	199	12,678	394	35,060	366	77,540	44,298	13,829	1,193	13,279
1315	39,768	211	9,895	746	27,240	577	93,349	57,586	14,483	1,427	10,818
1316	3,158	97	340	336	1,923	279	68,425	36,938	14,478	1,093	11,370
1317											
1318											
1319											
1320											
1321											
1322											
1323											
1324											
1325											
1326											
1327											

TABLE VI—(continued).—*Area in acres under the principal crops, Tahsil Moth.*

Year.	Rabi.						Kharif.				
	Total.	Wheat.	Wheat and gram.	Wheat and barley.	Gram.	Barley and gram.	Total.	Juar, including juar and arhar.	Cotton, including cotton and arhar.	Kodon.	Til.
Fasli.											
1305	29,239	407	7,139	316	20,847	103	41,677	26,528	5,268	648	2,929
1306	40,053	541	12,366	346	25,499	204	40,412	25,023	6,994	793	2,875
1307	38,018	712	10,178	238	26,269	80	32,430	17,762	7,773	605	3,597
1308	29,239	724	12,054	816	14,792	102	45,657	29,293	7,383	611	3,424
1309	39,341	392	11,879	313	26,345	50	36,627	19,982	8,419	536	3,785
1310	31,940	454	13,363	324	17,093	121	46,296	25,966	8,872	501	6,831
1311	*	*	*	*	*	*	46,591	25,166	8,694	292	9,452
1312	51,580	1,148	22,022	408	26,478	210	24,625	9,847	6,562	596	4,881
1313	21,232	1,311	9,506	492	9,706	5	46,819	28,465	6,875	541	6,826
1314	26,188	752	13,203	422	11,371	115	57,284	41,241	6,657	635	3,721
1315	8,109	569	5,673	422	1,153	73	30,960	14,414	8,254	469	4,871
1316											
1317											
1318											
1319											
1320											
1321											
1322											
1323											
1324											
1325											
1326											
1327											

* No jinswar prepared owing to settlement operations.

TABLE VI—(continued).—*Area in acres under the principal crops, Tahsil Lalitpur.*

Year.	Rabi. Total.	Rabi. Wheat.	Rabi. Wheat and gram.	Rabi. Wheat and barley.	Rabi. Gram.	Rabi. Barley and gram.	Kharif. Total.	Kharif. Juar, including juar and tihar.	Kharif. Cotton, including cotton and arhar.	Kharif. Kodon.	Kharif. Til.
Fasli.											
1306	31,031	7,581	96	14,564	5,589	179	137,238	32,464	387	27,606	22,780
1307	26,391	5,503	95	10,775	7,212	217	122,660	27,830	290	25,465	18,162
1308	29,815	7,345	52	13,071	5,877	222	131,432	35,039	293	26,582	18,670
1309	36,323	7,121	120	13,499	11,681	180	140,908	30,462	222	28,687	21,482
1310	32,560	7,455	60	13,505	7,709	224	145,662	37,536	228	27,348	20,681
1311	37,369	9,297	76	13,396	11,100	399	144,033	35,139	306	19,419	27,049
1312	46,274	11,915	345	12,815	17,436	523	132,449	25,446	196	23,498	24,597
1313	27,092	8,873	300	7,651	7,380	361	137,454	36,616	351	23,922	19,247
1314	37,174	15,393	218	12,251	5,667	455	160,098	45,447	176	26,978	28,895
1315	27,262	7,819	98	11,722	3,939	574	140,156	34,256	174	28,276	27,054
1316											
1317											
1318											
1319											
1320											
1321											
1322											
1323											
1324											
1325											
1326											
1327											

TABLE VI—(concluded).—*Area in acres under the principal crops, Tahsil Mahroni.*

Year.	Rabi.						Kharif.				
	Total.	Wheat.	Wheat and gram.	Wheat and barley.	Gram.	Barley and gram.	Total.	Juar, including juar and arhar.	Cotton, including cotton and arhar.	Kodon.	Til.
Fasli.											
1306 ...	24,190	5,306	152	7,732	8,340	14	115,829	27,952	318	28,136	20,278
1307 ...	16,231	2,973	30	5,302	5,986	90	106,658	24,819	263	25,520	18,834
1308 ...	21,634	5,144	101	6,426	7,114	14	120,786	34,909	353	26,759	20,239
1309 ...	32,665	5,085	200	6,816	17,221	18	115,797	27,183	260	28,113	19,578
1310 ...	29,221	5,803	221	6,838	13,430	6	124,861	36,196	237	25,912	23,551
1311 ...	36,179	7,831	21	6,803	18,756	76	120,578	32,875	289	22,693	27,994
1312 ...	46,122	11,167	500	6,603	24,918	150	115,809	21,403	190	26,204	23,274
1313 ...	19,030	5,999	384	2,743	7,685	30	131,986	38,868	248	25,267	21,553
1314 ...	28,707	12,758	553	5,732	6,570	135	158,253	46,193	209	31,532	29,582
1315 ...	23,385	8,281	458	5,973	6,500	117	124,937	29,898	184	30,078	29,386
1316 ...											
1317 ...											
1318 ...											
1319 ...											
1320 ...											
1321 ...											
1322 ...											
1323 ...											
1324 ...											
1325 ...											
1326 ...											

TABLE VII.—*Criminal Justice.*

Year.		Number of persons convicted or bound over in respect of—												Cases under—	
		Offences against public tranquillity (Chapter VIII).	Offences affecting life.	Grievous hurt.	Rape.	Cattle-theft.	Criminal force and assault.	Theft.	Robbery and dakaiti.	Receiving stolen property.	Criminal trespass.	Bad livelihood.	Keeping the peace.	Opium Act.	Excise Act.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1896	...	13	39	13	3	89	16	579	8	253	727	8	13	4	7
1897	...	13	54	17	...	192	34	612	68	616	858	45	3	6	6
1898	...	67	57	15	2	46	38	308	25	135	186	18	2	6	34
1899	...	87	46	16	4	39	32	269	18	123	238	88	11	13	119
1900	...	92	46	9	...	207	32	509	70	300	780	180	20	21	82
1901	...	37	40	13	1	73	26	350	27	189	213	39	41	25	85
1902	...	84	40	25	...	40	65	207	29	144	211	106	21	18	92
1903	...	86	32	19	3	54	35	177	13	94	131	133	58	8	52
1904	...	66	40	29	3	31	27	172	36	69	141	82	17	15	68
1905	...	44	25	10	1	52	30	188	14	80	197	104	17	8	44
1906	...	37	34	7	3	80	15	249	43	165	260	85	2	8	83
1907	...	95	17	10	1	30	28	140	32	60	92	71	50	5	38
1908	...														
1909	...														
1910	...														
1911	...														
1912	...														
1913	...														
1914	...														
1915	...														
1916	...														
1917	...														

TABLE VIII.—*Cognizable Crime.*

Year.	Number of cases investigated by police.			Number of persons.		
	Suo motu.	orders of Magistrate.	Sent up for trial.	Tried.	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1891	2,016		1,194	1,570	384	1,186 } A.
1892	1,945		1,117	1,441	351	1,090 } A.
1893	3,079		2,130	635	220	415 } B.
1894	3,271		2,285	822	216	604 } B.
1895	3,559		2,230	972	193	279 } B.
1896	2,730	32	1,629	2,083	364	1,723
1897	3,947	...	2,585	3,579	570	3,005
1898	1,963	18	1,321	1,742	311	1,431
1899	2,173	17	1,277	1,712	334	1,378
1900	3,551	21	2,473	3,252	504	2,748
1901	2,055	6	1,324	1,779	326	1,453
1902	1,875	15	1,227	1,480	252	1,228
1903	1,529	...	1,027	1,381	238	1,143
1904	1,515	...	971	1,233	219	1,014
1905	2,099	...	1,155	1,472	251	1,221
1906	2,291	...	1,216	1,481	247	1,234
1907	1,806	...	1,077	1,432	231	1,201
1908						
1909						
1910						
1911						
1912						
1913						
1914						
1915						
1916						
1917						

A.—Exclude sanitary offences and offences under special and local laws.

B.—These are the figures on which police working is judged.

The returns giving the total figures for cognizable crime are not available before 1896.

Table IX.—*Revenue demand at successive settlements.*

Pargana.	Year of settlement.				
	Mr. Jenkinson, 1864.	Major Davidson, †1869	Mr. Impey, 1892.	Mr. Hoare, 1998.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Jhansi Proper	...	...	...	...	
Jhansi	1,06,414	...	1,35,545	...	
Moth	1,20,308	...	1,28,065	...	
Garautha	1,36,009	...	1,35,610	...	
	...	...	44,864*	...	
Mau	1,18,843	...	1,51,955	...	
Lalitpur subdivision... ...	...	...	...	...	
Bansi	...	16,418	...	17,728	
Talbehat	...	23,636	...	27,971	
Lalitpur	...	45,721	...	50,578	
Balabehat	...	8,117	..	7,386	
Madaora	...	32,458	...	33,583	
Mahroni	...	14,205	...	16,760	
Banpur	...	36,890	...	36,890	

* Revenue of the Gursarai estate, fixed by Mr. Fremantle in 1896-97.
† Includes *ubari* and *muafi* demand.

TABLE X.—*Revenue and cesses, 1316 Fasli.*

Pargana or Tahsil.	Where included in *Ain-i-Akbari.*	Revenue as fixed at settlement 1903 to 1906.	Cesses.	Total.	Incidence per acre. Cultivated	Incidence per acre. Total.	First revision.	Second revision.	Third revision.	Fourth revision.	Fifth revision.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.					
Jhansi ...	Sarkar Erachh, Bijpur and Bhander.	1,07,020	11,721	1,18,741	1·03	·33					
Mau ...	Jatara ...	1,04,755	11,120	1,15,875	·84	·37					
Garautha ..	Pandor ..	1,05,565	12,429	1,17,994	·81	·35					
Moth ...	Bhander ... Erachh ...	95,795	9,817	1,05,612	1·19	·54					
Lalitpur ..	Lalitpur and Thanwarah Sirkar Chanderi (mahal uncertain).	31,695	3,876	35,573	·35	·11					
Balabehat ...		24,694	2,800	27,494	·58	·14					
Bansi ...		12,786	1,633	14,419	·53	·13					
Talbehat ...	Balabehat (Sirkar Raisin).	4,263	640	4,903	·25	04					
Tahsil Lalitpur,	Sarkar Chanderi,	73,438	8,951	82,389	·42	·11					
Mahroni ..	(mahal uncertain).	11,525	1,172	12,697	·32	·12					
Banpur ...		27,481	3,299	30,780	·41	·13					
Madaora ...	Dhamoni (Sirkar Raisin).	22,391	2,575	24,966	·33	·11					
Tahsil Mahroni,	...	61,397	7,046	68,443	·40	·11					

TABLE XI.—*Excise.*

Year.	Receipts from foreign liquors.	Country spirit. Receipts.	Country spirit. Consumption in gallons.	Receipts from *Tari* and *Sendhi.*	Drugs. Total receipts.	Drugs. Consumption in maunds of *Ganja.*	Drugs. Consumption in maunds of *Charas.*	Opium. Total receipts.	Opium. Consumption.	Total receipts.	Total charges.	Incidence of receipts per 10,000 of population from— Liquor including "*Tari.*"	Incidence … Drugs.	Incidence … Opium.	Number of shops for sale of Country spirit.	Number of shops … Drugs.	Number of shops … Opium.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Md. s. c.	Md. s. c.	Rs.	Md. s.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.			
1890-91...	1,412	34,884	...	15	4,405	Not available.		17,875	42 12	60,347	2,018	533	65	262	273	[illegible]9	23
1891-92...	1,536	33,690	...	20	4,325	Ditto.		17,976	41 18	59,071	1,975	516	63	263	270	98	23
1892-93 ..	1,168	40,795	..	20	4,139	201 4 0	94 22 0	18,330	40 30	64,952	1,493	614	60	27[illegible]	269	109	24
1893-94...	1,224	53,775	...	50	4,597	195 39 0	1 28 0	18,824	36 13	78,476	1,049	805	67	275	239	95	23
1894-95...	914	53,201	..	50	3,564	200 0 0	1 30 0	17,767	36 32	75,527	496	792	52	259	238	80	23
1895-96...	1,112	50,366	...	64	4,427	175 0 0	1 20 0	16,264	35 3	72,252	99	754	64	238	232	80	23
1896-97...	1,084	36,201	...	58	2,673	158 16 0	5 14 0	14,619	31 4	54,634	380	546	39	214	188	59	20
1897-98...	1,250	35,663	...	69	3,025	7 32 0	2 38 0	14,181	30 25	54,186	425	540	44	207	163	60	20
1898-99...	1,172	37,570	...	42	4,921	65 32 0	20 31 0	15,428	33 20	59,136	1,845	605	77	232	210	38	21
1899-1900	1,244	39,677	...	42	4,883	4 35 0	5 26 0	15,979	32 16	61,824	2,160	5[illegible]5	57	216	213	20	21
1900-01...	1,558	38,263	...	42	5,310	4 32 0	5 32 0	16,265	34 36	61,43[illegible]	1,921	646	86	264	233	20	21
1901-02...	1,824	39,354	...	50	5,701	2 2 0	6 16 0	15,891	35 8	62,321	2,157	667	93	263	233	26	21
1902-03...	1,290	41,306	..	60	6,078	2 23 0	5 7 0	17,942	38 39	63,686	2,646	699	100	294	233	72	22
1903-04...	1,928	64,956	...	160	5,932	1 3 0	5 31 0	19,247	41 11¼	92,228	2,245	1,099	97	315	233	72	22
1904-05 ..	2,181	66,395	...	84	5,941	0 32 0	8 4 0	18,508	40 18	93,[illegible]61	2,069	1,125	97	303	233	72	22
1905-06...	2,647	67,880	...	40	7,759	3 37 0	5 25 0	18,299	38 15	96,585	1,909	1,156	127	300	233	67	24
1906-07...	2,681	67,639	..	39	8,734	1 16 0	7 18 0	21,006	41 38	1,00,078	2,241	1,097	141	340	233	67	24
1907-08...	2,917	87,595	...	204	8,151	2 6 3	5 15 3¼	19,861	45 8	1,18,736	2,016	1,424	132	323	233	67	24
1908-09...																	
1909-10...																	
1910-11...																	
1911-12...																	
1912-13...																	
1913-14 .																	
1914-15...																	
1915-16...																	
1916-17...																	
1917-18...																	

TABLE XII.—*Stamps.*

Year.	Receipts from— Non-Judicial.	Court-fee, including copies.	All sources.	Total charges.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1890-91	26,136	56,437	83,086	2,761
1891-92	25,593	60,456	86,323	2,102
1892-93	27,614	61,622	89,490	2,498
1893-94	28,408	66,681	95,417	2,829
1894-95	29,794	52,778	82,770	2,429
1895-96	28,105	57,550	86,006	1,628
1896-97	26,444	57,813	84,696	1,676
1897-98	23,152	57,468	81,205	2,195
1898-99	19,507	50,509	70,753	1,253
1899-1900	21,085	48,170	70,125	1,564
1900-01	21,971	50,354	72,927	1,161*
1901-02	22,599	50,596	73,853	2,550
1902-03	24,367	55,420	80,448	2,601
1903-04	22,380	52,617	75,737	2,444
1904-05	23,325	44,245	68,188	2,116
1905-06	22,746	47,669	71,065	2,244
1906-07	21,134	54,994	76,864	2,084
1907-08	24,376	60,897	86,053	2,607
1908-09				
1909-10				
1910-11				
1911-12				
1912-13				
1913-14				
1914-15				
1915-16				
1916-17				
1917-18				

* Discount only.

TABLE XIII.—*Income-tax.*

Year.	Total receipts.	Collected by companies.		Profits of companies.		Other sources, Part IV.				Total charges.	Objections under Part IV.	
		Assessees.	Tax.	Assessees.	Tax.	Under Rs. 2,000.		Over Rs. 2,000.			Number filed.	Wholly or partly successful.
						Assessees.	Tax.	Assessees.	Tax.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.	Rs.		
1890-91	45,965	378	15,873	...	...	1,055	15,542	68	6,880	251	339	91
1891-92	44,711	353	13,826	...	...	1,032	15,696	81	8,167	365	449	137
1892-93	42,242	431	11,100	...	...	1,053	15,805	87	9,117	134	424	146
1893-94	51,429	413	17,900	...	...	1,059	16,090	110	11,085	168	387	105
1894-95	53,907	415	16,062	...	...	1,106	17,249	129	13,747	167	478	160
1895-96	61,878	419	15,477	...	...	1,286	20,983	168	18,163	131	773	218
1896-97	59,256	382	15,379	...	...	1,213	12,761	159	16,326	65	460	118
1897-98	58,049	382	16,319	...	...	1,121	18,014	156	15,900	79	565	125
1898-99	56,669	438	16,269	...	...	1,125	17,967	140	14,874	174	445	168
1899-1900	56,689	501	17,561	...	...	1,105	17,726	139	13,798	348	452	124
1900-01	57,824	574	18,275	...	...	1,111	17,871	130	12,564	74	418	77
1901-02	42,452	602	3,431	.	.	1,124	18,321	127	13,476	10	352	96
1902-03	38,020	...	...	...	...	1,108	18,050	126	13,092	87	384	115
1903-04	27,620	...	...	...	...	321	8,794	122	12,558	28	153	41
1904-05	30,108	...	...	...	...	325	8,681	132	14,322	21	197	57
1905-06	21,750	...	...	...	...	298	8,103	126	13,275	174	101	36
1906-07	21,221	...	...	...		282	7,626	134	13,195	108	101	20
1907-08	22,092	...	...	...	...	306	8,308	135	13,221	23	86	20
1908-09												
1909-10												
1910-11												
1911-12												
1912-13												
1913-14												
1914-15												
1915-16												
1916-17												
1917-18												

TABLE XIV.—*Income-tax for city and tahsil over 50,000—(Part IV only).*

Year.	City of Jhansi.				Year.	Tahsil Jhansi.			
	Under Rs 2,000.		Over Rs. 2,000.			Under Rs 2,000.		Over Rs. 2,000.	
	Assessees.	Tax.	Assessees.	Tax.		Assessees.	Tax.	Assessees.	Tax.
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
		Rs.		Rs.			Rs.		Rs.
1896-97 ...	3.5	5,532	79	9,135	1896-97 ..	329	5,670	71	7,535
1897-98 ..	292	5,128	81	9,471	1897-98 ..	315	5,399	72	7,928
1898-99 ...	268	4,675	71	8,98[illegible]	1898-99 ..	290	4,927	63	7,552
1899-1900 ..	269	4,757	70	8,244	1899-1900 ...	301	5,079	61	6,722
1900-01 ...	275	4,849	65	7,419	1900-01 ..	312	5,26[illegible]	56	5,805
1901-02 ..	262	4,892	64	8,378	1901-02 ..	303	5,365	55	6,782
1902-03 ..	253	4,700	68	8,282	1902-03	332	5,810	68	8,282
1903-04 ..	110	3,036	60	7,704	1903-04	127	3,475	61	7,769
1904-05 ..	103	2,835	53	6,948	1904-05 ..	115	3,166	61	8,545
1905-06 ...	102	2,795	49	6,044	1905-06 ...	116	3,144	58	7,565
1906-07 ..	97	2,604	56	6,552	1906-07 ..	113	3,030	65	8,112
1907-08 ...	101	2,719	57	6,482	1907-08 ...	114	3,077	66	8,086
1908-09 ...					1908-09 ..				
1909-10 ...					1909-10 ...				
1910-11 ..					1910-11 ..				
1911-12 ..					1911-12 ...				
1912-13 ...					1912-13 ...				
1913-14 ...					1913-14 ...				
1914-15 ...					1914-15 ...				
1915-16 ...					1915-16 ..				
1916-17 ..					1916-17 ...				
1917-18 ..					1917-18 ..				

TABLE XIV—(contd.).—*Income-tax by Tahsils—(Part IV only).*

Year.	Tahsil Mau.				Tahsil Garautha.				Tahsil Moth.			
	Under Rs. 2,000.		Over Rs. 2,000.		Under Rs. 2,000.		Over Rs. 2,000.		Under Rs. 2,000		Over Rs. 2,000.	
	Assessees.	Tax.	Assessees.	Tax.	Assessees.	Tax.	Assessees.	Tax.	Assessees.	Tax.	Assessees.	Tax.
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
1896-97 ...	192	2,740	23	2,123	153	2,422	7	686	117	2,211	16	1,876
1897-98 ...	169	2,396	22	1,987	126	1,931	7	643	99	1,725	16	1,551
1898-99 ...	189	2,645	21	1,893	123	1,894	5	549	114	2,001	17	1,580
1899-1900...	178	2,627	21	1,843	117	1,741	7	576	112	1,953	15	1,355
1900-01 ...	180	2,650	22	1,822	117	1,750	6	482	107	1,965	12	1,218
1901-02 ...	204	2,928	23	1,877	126	1,880	5	403	111	2,093	11	1,195
1902-03 ..	190	2,861	20	1,694	126	1,910	3	310	116	2,110	12	1,241
1903-04 ..	40	1,102	21	1,662	25	621	3	232	51	1,400	12	1,241
1904-05 ...	42	1,100	23	1,894	23	574	3	232	51	1,361	16	1,514
1905-06 ...	45	1,211	23	1,894	20	513	3	205	44	1,205	13	1,182
1906-07 ...	43	1,187	24	1,885	14	349	2	126	40	1,077	10	850
1907-08 ..	52	1,529	23	1,863	15	434	2	135	42	1,103	12	953
1908-09 ...												
1909-10 ...												
1910-11 ...												
1911-12 ...												
1912-13 ...												
1913-14 ...												
1914-15 ...												
1915-16 ...												
1916-17 ...												
1917-18 ...												

TABLE XIV—(concluded).—*Income-tax by tahsils—(Part IV only).*

Year.	Tahsil Lalitpur. Under Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	Tahsil Lalitpur. Under Rs. 2,000. Tax.	Tahsil Lalitpur. Over Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	Tahsil Lalitpur. Over Rs. 2,000. Tax.	Tahsil Mahroni. Under Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	Tahsil Mahroni. Under Rs. 2,000. Tax.	Tahsil Mahroni. Over Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	Tahsil Mahroni. Over Rs. 2,000. Tax.
1	2	3	4	5	2	3	4	5
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
1896-97 ...	253	3,922	21	1,575	110	1,846	12	779
1897-98 ...	254	3,826	20	1,435	112	1,892	11	813
1898-99 ...	255	3,827	15	1,063	111	1,958	10	728
1899-1900 ...	240	3,676	15	1,029	113	1,998	11	751
1900-01 ...	247	3,629	14	1,001	106	1,809	10	622
1901-02 ...	234	3,488	14	948	108	1,864	10	674
1902-03 ...	237	3,498	13	863	107	1,861	10	703
1903-04 ...	47	1,303	12	747	31	893	13	906
1904-05 ...	60	1,579	15	1,216	23	864	13	894
1905-06 ...	50	1,336	19	1,517	25	719	12	835
1906-07 ...	51	1,378	17	1,245	23	642	14	855
1907-08 ...	54	1,429	17	1,373	25	667	14	897
1908-09 ...								
1909-10 ...								
1910-11 ...								
1911-12 ...								
1912-13 ...								
1913-14 ...								
1914-15 ...								
1915-16 ...								
1916-17 ...								
1917-18 ...								

TABLE XV.—*District Board.*

Year.	Receipts.							Expenditure.									
Year.	Education.	Medical.	Scientific, &c.	Miscellaneous.	Civil works.	Pounds.	Ferries.	Total expenditure.	Contributions to Provincial funds	General administration.	Education.	Medical.	Scientific, &c.	Miscellaneous.	Civil works.	Pounds.	Debt.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1890-91 ...	1,903	3,858	...	1,586	2,039	5,955	...	1,22,009	...	1,921	21,315	11,423	...	11,841	75,509	...	...
1891-92 ...	2,155	4,826	...	2,344	2,130	3,700	...	1,76,262	...	1,915	24,876	14,847	...	6,773	1,27,851	...	...
1892-93 ...	1,510	4,914	...	1,137	2,559	7,132	...	1,33,487	...	1,413	23,356	13,058	...	6,758	88,902	...	...
1893-94 ...	1,744	4,215	...	1,428	529	5,808	...	1,22,100	...	1,609	24,825	14,818	...	6,369	74,479	...	...
1894-95 ...	1,735	3,988	...	1,361	442	4,453	...	1,03,184	...	1,522	26,190	13,478	...	6,176	55,816	...	...
1895-96 ...	1,807	4,015	...	1,225	1,819	7,031	...	94,019	...	1,218	24,525	13,071	...	420	59,785	...	...
1896-97 ...	1,815	4,043	...	1,091	1,463	5,251	...	1,00,448	...	1,259	25,185	15,008	...	546	58,450	...	...
1897-98 ...	1,763	4,179	...	2,758	2,173	4,568	...	1,13,908	...	1,235	25,435	16,115	...	...	71,123	...	...
1898-99 ...	2,133	3,847	...	1,712	2,411	3,675	...	1,01,088	...	1,968	27,064	14,493	...	...	56,403	...	1,160
1899-1900...	2,197	3,889	...	3,838	120	7,905*	...	1,46,100	10,658	2,108	27,787	14,250	71	56	87,450	3,640	80
1900-01 ...	2,216	4,009	...	2,888	2,316	6,813	1,471†	1,38,112	...	2,162	27,944	15,345	55	...	87,102	3,484	2,020
1901-02 ...	4,674	5,367	...	39	2,162	8,059	3,145	2,27,246	...	2,233	29,855	14,360	...	27	1,61,601	3,476	15,694
1902-03 ...	4,251	5,779	2,714	498	2,451	7,005	2,346	1,98,498	...	2,078	32,331	15,488	743	8	1,44,446	3,404	...
1903-04 ...	4,399	5,970	383	574	3,767	7,692	1,513	1,65,879	...	3,257	34,133	16,145	735	80	1,05,962	3,065	2,502
1904-05 ...	3,763	5,355	734	181	4,453	10,334	2,045	1,54,597	...	2,642	34,151	17,385	753	240	96,158	2,965	301
1905-06 ...	4,150	5,235	920	235	3,699	10,483	2,331	1,64,962	...	2,768	38,910	17,310	1,244	255	1,01,217	3,258	...
1906-07 ...	4,417	6,093	1,108	361	2,381	12,555	2,272	1,69,386	...	3,240	40,911	16,573	1,682	456	1,02,177	4,318	...
1907-08 ...	3,833	5,147	1,004	384	9,589	15,756	3,905	1,88,206	...	3,085	47,404	16,817	2,343	340	1,13,397	4,820	...
1908-09 ...																	
1909-10 ...																	
1910-11 ...																	
1911-12 ...																	
1912-13 ...																	
1913-14 ...																	
1914-15 ...																	
1915-16 ...																	
1916-17 ...																	
1917-18 .																	

* Formerly net receipts only were shown. From this year receipts and also expenditure are given.

† From this year the gross receipts from ferries were for the first time credited to the district board.

TABLE XVI.—*Municipality of Jhansi.*

Year.	Income. Octroi.	Tax on houses and lands.	Other taxes.	Rents.	Loans.	Other sources.	Total.	Expenditure. Administration and collection of taxes.	Public safety.	Water-supply and drainage. Capital.	Water-supply and drainage. Maintenance.	Conservancy.	Hospitals and dispensaries.	Public works.	Public Instructions.	Other heads.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs
1890-91	21,815	2,075	902	972	...	3,718	29,482	3,580	6,120	...	...	6,632	178	8,415	703	4,315	29,943
1891-92	33,157	2,000	432	3,812	...	4,071	43,402	3,924	6,558	2,484	...	9,974	587	10,218	717	9,023	43,486
1892-93	30,597	2,054	107	1,118	...	6,073	39,949	4,758	6,707	844	243	8,783	811	6,936	2,554	5,847	37,783
1893-94	37,402	2,733	448	414	..	8,567	49,564	5,178	7,030	3,853	..	10,940	724	7,626	934	8,049	44,934
1894-95	37,211	1,612	414	255	.	8,539	48,031	4,987	7,021	4,412	..	12,654	710	8,235	1,620	9,153	48,8[illegible]1
1895-96	38,050	2,391	461	344	...	10,761	52,006	4,568	10,769	2,249	88	15,123	704	6,015	1,550	8,731	49,800
1896-97	29,210	1,238	607	539	..	10,005	41,599	5,261	9,563	1,439	522	16,403	950	4,772	1,9[illegible]3	7,110	48,247
1897-98	33,612	4,415	515	510	..	8,949	47,901	5,716	9,210	1,287	1,325	12,179	806	2,807	1,892	9,752	44,974
1898-99	36,537	2,251	1,036	477	.	9,964	50,265	6,024	8,738	391	685	15,070	801	7,130	1,914	8,834	49,587
1899-1900	39,702	3,247	896	483	...	12,028	56,356	5,721	9,233	666	926	15,304	805	6,222	1,902	11,469	52,248
1900-01	37,403	3,031	892	545	...	9,622	51,613	5,449	9,177	510	370	14,653	825	6,145	3,971	8,913	50,033
1901-02	49,357	2,885	857	635	...	8,887	62,621	8,109	9,631	564	291	16,535	1,805	6,190	3,071	14,462	60,658
1902-03	51,183	3,421	1,216	1,027	..	10,250	67,177	8,000	10,375	1,374	522	20,127	1,832	7,725	3,763	11,770	65,488
1903-04	56,336	3,369	1,404	1,261	...	10,352	72,722	10,338	12,446	504	937	19,061	1,943	5,191	3,9[illegible]5	13,663	68,002
1904-05	63,132	3,497	1,249	2,421	...	15,366	85,665	10,934	19,193	390	672	27,497	2,064	5,739	3,904	14,908	85,201
1905-06	67,632	3,579	1,055	2,586	...	16,883	91,735	10,650	9,938	..	3,947	30,334	1,948	5,983	4,278	17,702	84,785
1906-07	69,525	3,864	1,158	2,820	...	18,162	95,529	12,182	6,643	...	7,864	24,163	2,334	7,082	4,358	32,450	96,076
1907-08	68,896	3,548	1,386	1,860	...	13,449	89,139	11,181	6,139	1,266	720	26,766	2,517	8,584	3,622	20,084	80,879
1908-09																	
1909-10																	
1910-11																	
1911-12																	
1912-13																	
1913-14																	
1914-15																	
1915-16																	
1916-17																	
1917-18																	

TABLE XVI—(concluded).—*Municipality of Mau-Ranipur.*

Year.	Income. Octroi.	Tax on houses and lands.	Other taxes.	Rents.	Loans.	Other sources.	Total.	Expenditure. Administration and collection of taxes.	Public safety.	Water-supply and drainage. Capital.	Water-supply and drainage. Maintenance.	Conservancy.	Hospitals and dispensaries.	Public works.	Public instruction.	Other heads.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1890-91	11,026	...	1,226	761	...	1,669	14,682	2,442	3,417	...	...	3,115	501	3,054	239	1,963	14,731
1891-92	12,834	...	1,068	337	...	2,062	16,301	2,874	3,344	268	242	2,937	419	1,646	260	2,210	14,200
1892-93	11,836	...	965	369	...	2,168	15,338	2,206	3,383	86	227	2,607	1,455	1,804	639	2,102	14,711
1893-94	13,800	...	1,008	332	...	2,100	17,240	2,365	3,643	160	253	2,888	420	3,114	646	1,285	14,774
1894-95	15,245	...	858	466	...	2,664	19,233	2,433	3,221	871	298	2,888	473	2,910	261	1,663	14,921
1895-96	14,012	...	908	423	...	2,494	17,837	3,404	3,635	1,109	392	2,932	420	3,110	277	1,403	16,682
1896-97	11,563	...	821	686	...	2,452	15,522	2,248	3,663	2,217	869	4,3[illegible]3	920	3,218	658	1,327	19,528
1897-98	11,876	...	765	602	...	1,759	14,604	2,360	3,600	1,749	1,131	2,985	548	2,015	746	3,225	18,879
1898-99	12,566	...	698	377	...	1,760	15,401	2,278	3,699	348	324	3,209	520	2,374	673	1,014	14,669
1899-1900	11,949	...	763	1,696	...	1,845	16,273	2,656	3,624	60	301	4,379	520	2,242	675	926	15,363
1900-01	11,868	...	820	479	...	3,015	16,182	3,173	3,614	1,283	306	3,638	1,479	2,297	770	587	17,049
1901-02	13,054	...	901	484	...	2,748	17,187	2,773	3,613	160	..	3,084	800	1,445	803	1,334	14,012
1902-03	15,004	...	857	474	...	2,667	19,052	2,696	3,638	1,116	181	3,063	800	2,276	757	1,884	16,911
1903-04	14,947	...	985	577	...	4,228	20,737	2,995	3,951	1,273	606	4,057	800	2,017	818	1,236	17,750
1904-05	14,691	...	911	537	...	5,137	21,276	3,303	3,632	1,322	1,187	4,672	800	1,420	808	1,696	19,180
1905-06	14,963	...	891	728	...	6,177	22,759	3,543	2,318	4,332	683	4,072	600	5,647	995	2,312	24,702
1906-07	18,118	...	900	714	...	3,719	23,527	3,216	735	...	909	4,782	796	2,784	1,011	3,624	16,057
1907-08	15,632	...	929	724	...	3,930	21,415	5,277	2,128	425	881	5,700	796	2,496	8,302	2,899	28,404
1908-09																	
1909-10																	
1910-11																	
1911-12																	
1912-13																	
1913-14																	
1914-15																	
1915-16																	
1916-17																	
1917-18																	

Table XVII.—*Distribution of Police*, 1908.

Serial number.	Thana.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head Constables. Civil Police.	Head Constables. Armed Police.	Constables. Civil Police.	Constables. Armed Police	Town.	Rural Police.	Road Police.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	City Jhansi ...	4	2	...	9	...	...	...	...
2	Baghaira ...	1	1	...	5	5	...	52	2
3	Chirgaon ...	1	1	...	7	7	7	68	8
4	Garautha ...	1	1	...	6	6	...	64	6
5	New Jhansi ...	3	2	1	8	3	...	31	12
6	Man ...	2	1	1	6	9	...	90	20
7	Moth ...	2	1	1	6	10	5	69	8
8	Banpur ...	1	1	1	6	9	...	31	...
9	Bar ...	1	1	...	6	6	...	54	...
10	Katera ...	1	1	...	6	6	...	36	...
11	Jakhaura ...	1	1	1	6	9	...	34	...
12	Lalitpur ...	3	1	...	7	...	...	44	8
13	Mahroni ...	2	1	...	6	6	4	34	8
14	Madaora ...	1	1	1	6	9	...	39	2
15	Talbehat ...	1	1	...	7	7	8	25	4
16	Babina ...	1	1	2	7	14	...	57	6
17	Baragaon ...	1	1	...	5	5	...	50	6
18	Birdha ...	1	1	1	6	9	...	34	8
19	Narhat ...	1	1	1	6	9	...	31	4
20	Sadar Bazar ...	2	1	...	3	...	...	...	...
21	Uldan ...	1	1	2	4	10	...	69	2
22	Kakarwai ...	1	1	...	4	4	...	41	4
23	Pandwaha ...	1	1	...	4	4	...	53	8
24	Barwa Sagar ...	1	1	1	5	8	10	41	8
25	Lahchura ...	1	1	...	6	6	...	49	6
26	Raksa ...	1	1	2	6	12	...	47	6
27	Gursarai ...	1	1	1	4	7	7	38	10
28	Erichh ...	1	1	1	5	8	...	50	6
29	Kelwara ...	1	1	...	6	6	...	21	2
30	Bansi ...	1	1	...	4	4	...	17	4
31	Dudhai ...	1	1	1	4	10	...	20	...
32	Girar ...	1	1	...	5	5	...	18	...
33	Jakhlom ...	1	1	...	8	8	...	22	...
34	Nathikhera ...	1	1	1	4	7	...	24	...
35	Sonjna ...	1	1	1	4	7	...	29	2
	Total ...	46	37	20	197	235	41	1,382	162

TABLE XVIII.—*Education.*

Year.	Total.			Secondary education.			Primary education.		
	Schools and Colleges.	Scholars.		Schools.	Scholars.		Schools.	Scholars.	
		Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.		Males.	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1896-97 ...	123	4,045	34	10	1,171	34	112	2,860	...
1897-98 ...	126	3,969	79	10	1,257	25	115	2,687	54
1898-99 ...	135	4,359	80	10	1,139	29	124	3,195	51
1899-1900...	147	4,754	118	11	1,164	49	134	3,503	69
1900-01 ...	143	4,497	90	10	1,155	21	131	3,288	69
1901-02 ...	141	4,994	109	10	1,252	4	129	3,696	105
1902-03	171	6,013	187	10	1,282	9	161	4,731	178
1903-04 ...	173	6,271	229	11	1,261	12	162	5,010	217
1904-05 ...	209	7,093	66	10	341*	..	199	6,752	66
1905-06 ...	218	7,452	641	10	358*	...	2 7	7,094	641
1906-07 ...	230	7,593	481	10	421*	...	220	7,172	481
1907-08 ...	235	8,201	395	10	731*	.	225	7,470	395
1908-09 ...									
1909-10 ...									
1910-11 ...									
1911-12 ...									
1912-13 ...									
1913-14 ...									
1914-15 ...									
1915-16 ...									
1916-17									
1917-18 .									

* Excluding primary classes of secondary schools which are shown under "Primary Education."

List of Schools, 1908.

Jhansi proper.

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Class.	Average attendance.
		A.—Secondary.		
Jhansi ...	Jhansi ...	Jhansi, Macdonnell High School	Anglo-Vernacular secondary school.	877
Do. ...	Do. ...	Jhansi ..	Vernacular secondary.	137
Do. ...	Do. ..	Barwa Sagar.	Ditto ..	47
Garautha ...	Garautha ...	Gursarai ...	Ditto ...	50
Mau ...	Mau ..	Mau ...	Ditto ...	109
		B.—Primary.		
Jhansi ...	Jhansi ..	Babina ...	Upper primary.	44
Do. ...	Do. ...	Baragaon ...	Ditto ...	70
Moth ...	Moth ...	Moth ...	Ditto ...	89
Do. ...	Do. ...	Chirgaon ...	Ditto ...	188
Do. ...	Do. ...	Erachh ...	Ditto ...	51
Do. ...	Do. ...	Punchh	Ditto ...	40
Do. ...	Do. ...	Kargawan ...	Ditto ...	54
Do. ...	Do. ...	Bakwan ...	Ditto ...	28
Garautha ...	Garautha ...	Garautha ...	Ditto ...	46
Do. ...	Do. ...	Pandwaha ...	Ditto ...	45
Do. ...	Do. ...	Bamor ...	Ditto ..	40
Mau ...	Mau ...	Siaori ...	Ditto ...	57
Do. ...	Do. ...	Uldan ...	Ditto ...	84
Do. ...	Do. ...	Sakrar .	Ditto ...	45
Jhansi ...	Jhansi ...	Pipri Bazar	Upper primary municipal Board.	36
Mau ...	Mau ...	Ranipur ...	Ditto ...	80
Do. ...	Do. ...	Mau ...	Ditto ...	84
Jhansi ...	Jhansi ...	Barwa Sagar.	Lower primary.	81
Do. ...	Do. ...	Baghaira ...	Ditto ...	42
Do. ...	Do. ...	Palar ...	Ditto ...	28
Do. ...	Do. ...	Dhamna ...	Ditto ...	18
Do. ...	Do. ...	Raksa ...	Ditto ...	19
Do. ...	Do. ...	Jauri ...	Ditto ...	19
Do. ...	Do. ...	Simra ...	Ditto ...	13
Do. ...	Do. ...	Moudai ...	Ditto ...	28
Moth ...	Moth ...	Kumharra ...	Ditto ...	24
Do. ...	Do. ..	Talaur ..	Ditto ...	17
Do. ...	Do. .	Pahari ...	Ditto ...	28
Do. ...	Do. ...	Semri ...	Ditto ...	22
Do. ...	Do. ...	Baral ...	Ditto ...	87
Do. ...	Do. ...	Belman ...	Ditto ...	17
Do. ...	Do. ...	Baghaira ...	Ditto .	22
Do. ...	Do. ...	Pipra ...	Ditto ...	17
Do. ...	Do. ...	Kamharia ...	Ditto ...	16
Do. ...	Do. ...	Pahargaon...	Ditto ...	20
Do. ...	Do. ...	Nari ...	Ditto ...	9
Do. ...	Do. ...	Atarsuan ...	Ditto ...	20
Garautha ...	Garautha ...	Gursarai ...	Ditto ...	66
Do. ...	Do. ...	Ghuraiya ...	Ditto ...	18

List of Schools, 1908—(*continued*).

Jhansi proper—(*continued*).

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Class.	Average attendance.
Garautha ...	Garautha ...	Sarsainda .	Lower Primary.	18
Do. ...	Do. ...	Moti Katra...	Ditto ...	28
Do. ...	Do. ...	Kakarwai ...	Ditto ...	18
Do ...	Do. ...	Bhadarwara	Ditto ...	11
Do. ...	Do ...	Iksil ...	Ditto ...	17
Do. ...	Do. ...	Dhibkai ...	Ditto ...	14
Do. ...	Do. ...	Simardha ...	Ditto ...	18
Do. ...	Do. ...	Kharaura ...	Ditto ...	80
Do. ...	Do. ...	Kurchta ...	Ditto ...	20
Do. ...	Do. ...	Sutta ...	Ditto ..	18
Do. ...	Do. ...	Garwai ...	Ditto	8
Do. ...	Do. ...	Dumrai ...	Ditto ...	17
Do. ...	Do. ...	Aioni ...	Ditto ...	22
Do. ...	Do. ...	Lidhaura ...	Ditto ..	11
Mau	Mau ...	Baragaon ...	Ditto ...	15
Do. ..	Do. ...	Ghat Kotra...	Ditto ...	16
Do. ...	Do. ...	Pachwara ...	Ditto ...	11
Do. ...	Do. ...	Rewan ...	Ditto ...	20
Do. ...	Do ...	Bamouri ..	Ditto ...	20
Do. ...	Do. ...	Itail ...	Ditto ...	20
Do. ...	Do. ...	Akseo ...	Ditto ...	14
Do. ...	Do. ...	Palra ...	Ditto ...	12
Do. ...	Do. ...	Bhadarwara...	Ditto ...	19
Do. ...	Do. ...	Chhurara ...	Ditto ...	19
Do. ...	Do. ..	Magarpur .	Ditto ...	11
Do. ...	Do. ...	Madarwans ..	Ditto ...	7
Do. ..	Do. ...	Dhawakhar ...	Ditto ...	16
Do. ...	Do. ...	Khadarka ...	Ditto ...	17
Do. ...	Do. ...	Ratosa ...	Ditto ...	17
Do. ...	Do. ...	Mau ...	Ditto ...	128
Do. ...	Do. ...	Lohari ...	Ditto ...	23
Jhansi ...	Jhansi ...	Tendo ...	Lower Primary (aided.)	10
Do. ...	Do. ...	Koncha Bhanwan.	Ditto ...	14
Do. ...	Do. ...	Barehta .	Ditto ...	20
Do ..	Do. ...	Parichha ...	Ditto ...	31
Do ...	Do. ...	Ambabai ...	Ditto ..	14
Do. ..	Do. ...	Garhmau ...	Ditto ...	18
Do. .	Do. ...	Baidora ...	Ditto ...	20
Do. ...	Do. ...	Chhapra ..	Ditto ...	16
Do. ...	Do. ..	Guaoli ...	Ditto ...	18
Do. ...	Do. ...	Bithri ...	Ditto ...	25
Do. ...	Do. ...	Khajraha Buzurg.	Ditto ...	22
Moth ...	Moth ...	Kumiar ...	Ditto ...	19
Do. ...	Do. ...	Nand khas ...	Ditto ...	19
Do. ...	Do. ...	Parsa ...	Ditto ...	18
Mau ...	Mau ..	Dhakarwara	Ditto ...	22
Do. ...	Do. ...	Bira	Ditto ...	14
Do. ...	Do. ...	Rupa Dhamna	Ditto ...	18
Do. ...	Do. ...	Magarwara...	Ditto ...	14
Do. ...	Do. ...	Sijari khurd	Ditto ...	14

List of Schools, 1908—(*continued*).

Jhansi proper—(concluded).

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Class.	Average attendance.
Garautha ...	Garautha ...	Singar ...	Lower Primary,	19
Do. ...	Do. ...	Bhasneh ...	Ditto ...	16
Do. ...	Do. ...	Pasora ...	Ditto ...	10
Do. ...	Do. ...	Parsua ...	Ditto ...	10
Do. ...	Do. ...	Nagra ...	Ditto ...	12
Do. ...	Do. ...	Haibatpura...	Lower Primary (aided).	10
Do. ...	Do. ...	Bachheh ..	Ditto ...	9
Do. ...	Do. ...	Riyan ...	Ditto ...	19
Do. ...	Do. ...	Asta ...	Ditto ...	12
Jhansi ...	Jhansi ...	Rani's palace Jhansi.	Lower Primary, municipal board.	91
Do ...	Do. ...	Baid-Raj I...	Lower Primary, aided by municipal board.	37
Do. ...	Do. ...	Baid-Raj II...	Ditto ...	40
Do. ...	Do. ...	Khatariana ..	Ditto ..	49
Do. ...	Do. ...	Purani Kotwali.	Ditto ...	60
Do. ...	Do. ...	Halwai Bazar	Ditto ...	46
Do. ...	Do. ...	Jamiriai ...	Ditto ...	30
Mau ...	Mau ...	Diwanji-ka-purwa.	Ditto ...	28
Do. ...	Do. ...	Aliyai ...	Ditto ...	23
Do. ...	Do. ..	Gadhuria Ganj.	Ditto ...	14
Do. ...	Do. ...	Sheo Ganj .	Ditto ...	19
Do. ...	Do. ...	Mau ...	Girls' Lower Primary.	17
Do. ...	Do. ...	Katera ...	Lower Primary, supported by the Raja.	36
Jhansi ...	Jhansi ...	Jhansi ...	Training class...	6

List of Schools, 1908—*(continued)*.

	Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Class.	Average attendance.
		A.—Secondary.			
Lalitpur Subdivision.	Lalitpur ...	Lalitpur ...	Lalitpur ...	Anglo-Vernacular.	60
	Do. ...	Talbehat ...	Talbehat ...	Middle-Vernacular.	34
	Mahroni ...	Mahroni ...	Mahroni ...	Ditto ...	35
	Lalitpur ...	Lalitpur ...	Lalitpur ...	Middle-Vernacular (municipal School.)	127
		B.—Primary.			
	Lalitpur ...	Lalitpur ...	Jakhlon ...	Upper Primary,	44
		Do. ...	Delwara .	Ditto ...	93
		Do ...	Thanwarah ...	Ditto ...	26
		Do. ...	Khajuria ...	Ditto ...	98
		Bansi ...	Bansi ...	Ditto ...	47
		Do. ...	Jakhaura ..	Ditto ...	42
		Talbehat ...	Karcara ...	Ditto ..	29
		Do ..	Pura kalan...	Ditto ...	37
		Balabehat ..	Pali ...	Ditto ...	51
	Mahroni ...	Banpur ..	Banpur ...	Ditto ...	54
		Do ..	Bar ...	Ditto ...	49
		Mahroni ...	Kumendhi ...	Ditto ...	34
		Do. ...	Gurha ...	Ditto ...	28
		Madaora ...	Narhat ..	Ditto ...	40
		Do. ...	Madaora ...	Ditto ...	75
		Do. ..	Sonrai ..	Ditto ...	28
	Lalitpur ...	Lalitpur ..	Satarwans ...	Lower Primary,	11
		Do. .	Birdha ..	Ditto ...	25
		Do. ...	Masora khurd	Ditto ...	14
		Do. ...	Hajwara ...	Ditto ...	10
		Do. ...	Silgan ...	Ditto ...	17
		Do. ...	Chandran ...	Ditto ...	20
		Bansi ...	Gursora ..	Ditto ...	10
		Do. ...	Pipra ...	Ditto ...	21
		Do. ...	Baroda Swami	Ditto ...	29
		Talbehat ...	Budoni ...	Ditto ...	19
		Do. ...	Siron kalan...	Ditto ...	22
		Do. ...	Bhuchora ...	Ditto ...	17
		Do. ...	Kotra ...	Ditto ...	28
		Do. ...	Bijrotha ...	Ditto ...	18
		Do. ...	Bangawan kalan.	Ditto ...	11
		Do. ...	Pura Birdha	Ditto ...	18
		Do. ...	Bamorisar ...	Ditto ...	14
		Do. ...	Talbehat ...	Ditto ...	69
		Balabehat ...	Dongra Kalan	Ditto ...	18
		Do. ...	Bant ...	Ditto ...	14
		Do. ...	Piprai ...	Ditto ...	28
	Mahroni ...	Banpur ...	Patha ...	Lower Primary,	12
		Do. ...	Sindwaha ...	Ditto ...	22
		Do. ...	Chinglawan...	Ditto ...	14

List of Schools, 1908—*(concluded)*.

Lalitpur Subdivision—*(concluded)*.

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Class.	Average attendance.
Mahroni ...	Banpur ...	Bhailoni Suba.	Lower primary,	13
	Do. ...	Jarauli ...	Ditto ..	20
	Do.	Deoron ...	Ditto ..	21
	Do. ..	Mirchwara ...	Ditto ...	7
	Do ...	Marauli	Ditto ...	10
	Do. ...	Kelgawan ...	Ditto ...	17
	Mahroni ...	Chhapchol ...	Ditto	12
	Do. ...	Bhondhi ...	Ditto ...	16
	Do. ...	Mahroni ...	Ditto .	51
	Madaora .	Guna ...	Ditto ...	20
	Do. ...	Dongra Khurd	Ditto ..	14
	Do. ..	Saidpur ...	Ditto .	18
	Do. ..	Sarhumar ...	Ditto ..	22
	Do. ...	Parol ...	Ditto ..	14
Lalitpur ...	Lalitpur ...	Danni ...	Lower Primary, aided.	15
	Do.	Baroda ...	Ditto ...	13
	Do. ...	Jiron ..	Ditto ...	15
	Do. ...	Seoni Kalan	Ditto ...	14
	Do. ...	Paroria ...	Ditto .	16
	Do. ...	Jijiawan ...	Ditto ...	13
	Bansi ...	Alupur	Ditto ...	12
	Balabehat ...	Balabehat ...	Ditto ...	15
Mahroni ...	Banpur ...	Lalwari ...	Ditto ...	13
	Do ..	Gadiana	Ditto ...	14
	Do. .	Udaipura ..	Ditto	14
	Do. ...	Kuangaon ...	Ditto	11
	Mahroni	Mainwara ...	Ditto ...	14
	Madaora ..	Patna ...	Ditto ...	19
	Do. .	Madanpur ..	Ditto .	...
Lalitpur ...	Lalitpur ...	Lalitpur ...	English Mission School.	12
	Do. ..	Do. ...	Boys' School, aided by municipal board.	31
	Do. ...	Do. .	Mission School for Girls.	15
	Do. ...	Do. ..	Mission Girls' School aided by the district board.	22
	Do. ...	Do. ...	Model Girls' School.	36
	Do ...	Do. ...	Training class	6
	Bansi ...	Pipra ..	Girls' School (aided).	10
	Talbehat ...	Talbehat ...	Ditto ...	24
Mahroni ...	Mahroni ...	Mahroni ...	Ditto ..	10
	Madaora ...	Madaora ..	Ditto ...	21

ROADS, 1908.

A.—PROVINCIAL.	Miles.	fur.
(i) Cawnpore, Jhansi and Saugor trunk road, Jhansi section.	71	6
(ii) Cawnpore, Jhansi and Saugor trunk road, Lalitpur section.	56	2
(iii) Jhansi to Sipri trunk road	14	0
(iv) „ Gwalior „	30	4
(v) Khande Rao gate road	1	3
(vi) Datia gate road	1	2
(vii) Lachhmi gate road	1	1
(viii) Baragaon gate road	2	6
(ix) Chirgaon station road	0	3
(x) Moth station road	0	4
(xi) Punchh station road	0	2
Total ...	160	1

B.—LOCAL.

I.—First-class roads, metalled, bridged and drained throughout.

(i) Lalitpur to Mahroni	26	1
(ii) Railway feeder to Talbehat station	1	1
(iii) „ „ Jakhlon	1	4
(iv) „ „ Lalitpur	1	5
(v) Mahroni to Madaora	15	4
(vi) Gursarai to Garautha	8	0
(vii) Mau to Tikamgarh	5	4
(viii) Baragaon Garautha road, *vide* iv (vi)	20	6
Total ...	90	1

II.—First-class roads, metalled, partially bridged and drained.

(i) Jhansi to Nowgong	47	3
(ii) „ station	3	4
(iii) Sukhnai branch	0	3
(iv) Mau to Orai	0	3
(v) „ Garautha	0	7
(vi) Ratosa to Bokhara	0	4
(vii) Moth to Samthar	10	5
(viii) Mau to Punchh	1	1
(ix) Chirgaon to Bhander	43	4
(x) Babina railway feeder road	3	4
	1	4
Total ...	112	7

ROADS, 1908.

III.—Second-class roads, unmetalled, bridged and drained throughout.	Miles.	fur.
(i) Mau to Garautha	23	...
(ii) „ Rupa Dhamna	2	...
(iii) Ranipur to Siaori	7	...
(iv) Barwa Sagar railway feeder road	1	4
(v) Ranipur railway feeder road	1	...
(vi) Babina to Sirasghat...	14	...
(vii) Jhansi to Unao	7	...
(viii) Lalitpur to Durjanpur	2	...
(ix) „ Pali	13	2
(x) „ Gugarwara	12	2
(xi) Talbehat to Sirasghat	8	4
(xii) Gugarwara to Banpur	9	4
(xiii) Bijrotha railway feeder road	4	...
(xiv) Delwara „ „	1	4
(xv) Dudhai to Dhaurra Railway feeder road	4	6
(xvi) Jakhaura feeder road	1	...
(xvii) Talbehat Pura road, with branch from Hingora to Nathikhera.	15	4
Total ...	127	6

IV.—Fourth-class roads, unmetalled, banked, partially bridged and drained.		
(i) Durjanpura to Rajghat	11	2
(ii) Madaora to Madanpur	12	...
(iii) Bangaria to Balabehat and Pirghat	17	...
(iv) Betna to Jakhlon	13	2
(v) Pura to Karauniaghat	3	...
(vi) Baragaon to Moti Katra, *vide I* (viii)	25	...
(vii) Gursarai to Saiyidnagar	15	...
(viii) Lalitpur to Jakhlon	13	1
(ix) Moth to Bhander	12	4
(x) Hissar khurd to Serwans	8	...
(xi) Gugarwara to Kelgawan	13	2
(xii) Mahroni to Banpur	8	4
(xiii) Bar to Hazari ghat	13	...
Total ...	164	7

V.—Fifth-class roads, cleared, partially bridged and drained.		
(i) Jhansi to Baidora	18	...
(ii) „ Orchha	1	4
(iii) „ Bhagwantpura	2	4

ROADS, 1908.

V.—Fifth-class roads, cleared, partially bridged and drained.—(concluded).	Miles.	fur.
(iv) Babina to Badanpur	15	...
(v) Moth to Gursarai	17	4
(vi) Garautha to Kakarwai	9	...
(vii) " Iskil	18	...
(viii) Nipan to Kedartai	8	..
(ix) Chirgaon to Gursarai	24	...
(x) Kotra to the Gursarai Saiyidnagar road	1	4
(xi) Punchh to Nari	7	4
(xii) Baugra to Erachh	36	...
(xiii) Mau to Bonda	9	...
(xiv) " Bokhara and Pachora	3	...
(xv) Ranipur to Ghughua	12	...
(xvi) Mau to Churara	6	...
(xvii) Ramnagar to Talaur	11	4
(xviii) Jhansi to Bhander	10	..
(xix) Bhitaura to Dugara	15	...
(xx) Badanpur to Ambabai	20	...
(xxi) Ambabai to Mawai Gird	9	...
(xxii) Sukhnai bridge to Ganupura	5	...
(xxiii) Mau to Ghat Lahchura	10	4
(xxiv) Iskil to Dhikauli	5	...
(xxv) Ranipur road station to Nowgong road	4	...
(xxvi) Lalitpur to Jakhaura	17	4
(xxvii) Bansi to Banpur	22	4
(xxviii) " Jakhaura	9	4
(xxix) Talbehat to Jakhaura	14	4
(xxx) Jakhaura to Rajghat	12	..
(xxxi) Mahroni to Narhat	18	...
(xxxii) Narhat to Didonia	16	...
(xxxiii) Khitwans to Saidpur	16	...
(xxxiv) Parichha railway station feeder	1	...
Total ...	405	4

VI.—Sixth-class roads, cleared only.

(i) Barwa Sagar to Dhamna	11	4
(ii) Ghurari, Thakurpura and Dhukwan	9	...
(iii) Tankori Nibi road	16	...
(iv) Garwai to Kakarwai	7	4
(v) Markuan to Dugara	10	...
(vi) Arjar to Sakrar	8	...
(vii) Ghat Lahchura to Sijari	8	..
(viii) Katera to Bangra	5	...
(ix) Mau to Uldan	11	..

ROADS, 1908.

VI.—Sixth-class roads, cleared only.—(concluded).	Miles.	fur.
(x) Baghaira-Ghuraiya road	4	...
(xi) Jakhaura-Kotra road	5	...
(xii) Mahroni to Jagara	16	...
(xiii) Madaora to Sonjna	12	...
(xiv) Jakhlon to Khitwans	14	4
(xv) Maholi to Amjharaghat	5	...
(xvi) Dongra to Sarhumar	14	...
(xvii) Simthari to Chirgaon	2	4
(xviii) Kanpura to Bamori...	4	4
(xix) Bamori to Jalandhar via Sonrai	5	...
(xx) Madaora to Girar	21	...
(xxi) Bant to Jahazpur	3	...
(xxii) Jakhlon to Dhourra	8	...
(xxiii) Dudhai to Maholi	6	...
(xxiv) Paron to Churaoni	8	4
Total ...	210	...
VII.—Forest roads.		
(i) Ghisauli to Dhukwan	5	...
(ii) Raipur to Sourai	3	...
(iii) Haraspur to Chhipai and Lalaun	6	...
(iv) Baroda Dang to Tenta and Semra Dang	6	...
(v) Saipuri Munzabta to Deogarh	7	...
(vi) Bant to Balabehat viâ Morari	13	...
(vii) Morari to Dhójari (Rotghat)	10	...
(viii) Bamori Bansa to Morari	5	...
(ix) Maholi to Kanpura	5	...
Total ...	60	...
GRAND TOTAL ...	1,351	2

FERRIES, 1908.

River.	Ferry.	Village.	Tahsil.	Management.	Income. Average of 3 years.
					Rs.
Betwa.	Erachh ...	Erachh ...	Moth ...	District Board.	153
	Kukagaon ...	Kukagaon ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	80
	Manikpura ...	Manikpura ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	47
	Dhaunra ...	Dhaunra ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	60
	Ramnagar ...	Ramnagar ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	225
	Barehta ...	Barehta ...	Jhansi ...	Do. ...	437
	Tilehta ...	Tilehta ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	95
	Nohat ...	Nohat ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	2,283
	Dhikauli ...	Dhikauli ...	Garautha	Do. ...	49
	Manahari ...	Sairwans ...	Lalitpur...	Do. ...	19
	Sooni ...	Sooni ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	87
	Rajghat ...	Rampura ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	24
	Kisalwans ...	Kisalwans ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	21
	Basman ...	Basman ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	43
	Siras ...	Kaprer ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	28
	Suren ...	Karesra ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	58
Jamni.	Amghat ...	Kelgawan ...	Mahroni ...	Do. ...	15
Dhasan.	Pindarghat ...	Pindar and Ramgarh.	Do. ...	Do. ...	9
	Lahchura ...	Lahchura ...	Mau ...	Do. ...	39

POST OFFICES 1908.

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Office.	Class.
Jhansi ...	Jhansi ...	Jhansi	Head office.
		Cantonments	Sub-office.
		City	Ditto.
		Railway station	Ditto.
		Sadr Bazar	Ditto.
		Sipri Bazar	Branch office.
		Orchha gate	Ditto.
		Ambabai	Ditto.
		Babina	Ditto.
		Baidora	Ditto.
		Baragaon	Ditto.
		Barwa Sagar	Ditto.
		Dhukwan	Ditto.
		Raksa	Ditto.
		Parichha	Ditto.
Mau ...	Mau ...	Mau	Sub-office.
		Ghat Kotra	Branch office.
		Ghat Lahchura.	Ditto.
		Kotra	Ditto.
		Pandwaha	Ditto.
		Rampur	Ditto.
		Siaori	Ditto.
		Uldan	Ditto.
		Sakrar	Ditto.
Tori Fatehpur.	Tori Fatehpur.	Tori Fatehpur	Ditto.
Garautha ...	Garautha ...	Garautha	Sub-office.
		Kakarwai	Branch office.
		Gursarai	Ditto.

POST-OFFICES, 1908—(*concluded*).

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Office.	Class.
Moth ...	Moth ...	Moth	Sub-office.
		Chirgaon	Ditto.
		Erachh	Branch office.
		Punchh	Ditto.
		Baghaira	Branch office.
		Talaur	Ditto
Datia state	...	Sonagir	Ditto.
Do. ...	...	Seonda	Ditto.
Samthar state,	...	Amra	Ditto.
Do. ...	...	Samthar	Ditto.
Indore ...	...	Alampur	Ditto
Lalitpur ..	Lalitpur ...	Lalitpur	Sub-office.
	Do. ...	Birdha	Branch office.
	Do. ...	Jakhlon	Ditto.
	Do. ...	Kelwara	Ditto.
	Do. ...	Khajuria	Ditto.
	Bansi ...	Bansi	Ditto.
	Do. ..	Bar	Ditto.
	Do. ...	Jakhaura	Ditto.
	Talbehat ...	Talbehat	Sub-office.
	Do ...	Nathikhera	Branch office.
	Balabehat ..	Narhat	Ditto.
	Do. ..	Piprai	Ditto.
Mahroni ...	Banpur ...	Banpur	Ditto.
	Mahroni ...	Mahroni	Sub-office.
	Do. ...	Sonjna	Branch office.
	Madaora ..	Madaora	Ditto.
	Do. ...	Girar	Ditto.
	Do. ...	Madanpur	Ditto.

MARKETS, 1908.

Subdivision	Pargana and tahsil.	Bazar.	Market-days.
Jhansi proper	Jhansi	Cattle mart, Jhansi town	Monday and Thursday.
		Baragaon ...	Monday.
		Simthari ...	Saturday.
		Barwa Sagar ...	Friday.
		Babina ...	Wednesday.
		Palar ...	Sunday.
		Jarbo ...	Wednesday.
		Lidhora ...	Friday.
		Jhansi	Daily.
	Mau	Cattle mart, Mau town.	Sunday and Saturday
		Mau town Bazar ...	Daily.
		Dhora ...	Wednesday.
		Taktoli ...	Monday.
		Bhaupura	Thursday.
		Pathi ...	Tuesday.
		Chhurara ...	Saturday.
		Baragaon	Friday.
		Bahadarwara ...	Monday.
		Akseo ...	Do.
		Bamhori ...	Thursday.
		Dhawakhar ...	Tuesday.
		Dhamna Paik ...	Sunday.
		Rora ...	Saturday.
		Rewan ...	Thursday.
		Siaori ...	Tuesday.
		Pirthipura	Friday.
		Kakwara ...	Sunday.
		Pachwara ...	Wednesday.
		Palra ...	Saturday.
		Sijaro ...	Do.
		Ratosa ...	Monday.
		Nota ...	Saturday.
		Hati ...	Friday.
		Uldan ...	Tuesday.
		Deori Singhpura, *alias* Rampur.	Sunday Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
		Kagir ...	Friday.
		Katera ...	Tuesday.
		Magarpur ...	Do.
		Pahari Buzurg ...	Sunday.
		Lohari ...	Monday.
	Garautha	Sia ...	Wednesday.
		Kakarwai	Tuesday.
		Kuraitha ...	Monday.
		Bhadarwara ...	Tuesday.
		Singar ...	Monday.
		Bamor ...	Saturday.
		Riyan ...	Friday.
		Iskil ...	Sunday.
		Garwai ...	Tuesday and Thursday.
		Khairokhar ...	Monday.
		Dhansura ...	Tuesday.

MARKETS, 1908—(*continued*).

Subdivision.	Pargana.	Bazar.	Market.
Jhansi—(*concluded*).	Garautha—(*concluded*).	Turka Lahchura ...	Monday and Thursday.
		Bararu	Saturday.
		Moti Katra ...	Monday.
		Garautha ...	Tuesday.
		Gurha	Monday.
		Markuan... ...	Tuesday.
		Aioni	Sunday and Thursday.
		Pandwaha ...	Saturday.
		Lidhaura... ...	Do.
		Birpura	Sunday.
		Nunar	Friday.
		Sarsainda ...	Saturday.
		Gursarai... ...	Wednesday and Saturday.
		Barau	Saturday.
	Moth ...	Moth	Wednesday and Sunday.
		Punchh	Wednesday.
		Erachh	Monday and Thursday.
		Pahargaon ...	Saturday.
		Bakwan	Thursday.
		Sunaria ...	Monday.
		Rampur ...	Sunday.
		Talaur	Saturday.
		Chirgaon ...	Monday and Thursday.
		Semri	Friday.
		Pipra	Thursday.
		Bilahti Khet ...	Monday.
Lalitpur Subdivision.	Bansi ...	Bansi	Wednesday and Saturday.
		Jakhaura ...	Thursday.
		Nanora	Tuesday.
	Balabehat ..	Piprai	Tuesday.
		Balabehat ...	Monday.
		Pali	Sunday.
		Dongra Kalan ...	Do.
	Talbehat ...	Talbehat	Monday and Friday.
		Birdha	Saturday.
		Pura Kalan ...	Sunday.
		Chungi	Tuesday.
	Lalitpur ...	Lalitpur... ...	Wednesday and Saturday.
		Thanwara ...	Sunday.
		Lagon	Monday.
		Sairwans ...	Friday.
		Barod	Monday.
		Jakhlon	Sunday.
		Birdha	Monday.
		Khajuria ...	Thursday.

MARKETS, 1908—(*concluded*).

Tahsil.	Pargana	Bazar.	Market.
Mahroni ...	Mahroni ..	Mahroni ...	Monday.
		Kumendhi ...	Thursday.
		Gurha	Friday.
	Banpur ...	Banpur	Sunday.
		Gugarwara ...	Tuesday.
		Kelgawan ...	Do.
		Bar	Monday and Friday.
		Sindwaha ...	Sunday.
	Madaora .	Saidpur	Saturday.
		Narhat	Thursday.
		Madaora	Friday.
		Dongra Kalan ...	Do.
		Sonrai	Monday.

FAIRS.

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Town or village.	Name of fair.	Date.	Average attendance.
Mau ...	Mau ..	Roni ...	Kedar Nath ka mela.	I about 12th January. II Last day of Asarh (July).	3,000
	Do. ..	Katera ...	Jalbehar ...	12th of Bhadon Sudi, about 16th September.	1,000
	Do. ...	Mau ...	Do. ...	Ditto ...	7,000
Moth,	Moth	Moth ...	Kalindri talab ka mela.	End of March.	1,500
	Do. ...	" ...	Ganeshji ka mela.	About 3rd April.	900
	Do. ...	Naadkhas.	Mahadeoji ka mela.	About 15th February.	1,000
	Do ..	Dhawar ...	Shitla Debi ka mela.	About 19th April.	280
Lalitpur.	Talbehat . .	Talbehat...	Pir Sahib ka mela	Bhadon Badi 9th (August).	3,000
	Do. ..	Kohra ...	Gond Baba .	Chait Badi (March) 4th	1,450
	Do. . .	Pawa ...	Nem Nath ...	Kartik Sudi (October) 15th.	700
	Lalitpur ..	Rajpura ...	Jhumar Nath ..	Phagun Badi (February) 14th.	1,750
	Do ..	Rajghat ...	Madna Tor ...	Aghan Sudi (November) 15th.	1,800
Mahroni,	Mahroni ..	Parol ...	Pandunan ka mela	Baisakh Sudi 15th (about 25th May).	500

GOVERNMENT FORESTS.

Range.	Pargana.	Name of village.	Area.	Description.
Jhansi	Jhansi	Babina	1,218·62	Rund and forest.
		Baghaura ...	472·29	
		Bangiwan ...	694·80	
		Barora	1[illegible]8·47	
		Dukhwan ...	503·63	
		Ganeshpura ..	143·2[illegible]	
		Ghisauli	286·15	
		Lahar Thakurpur	1,057·66	
		Mankua	228·75	
		Manpur ..	1[illegible]5·85	Rund.
		Nohra	378·71	
		Pirthipura ...	269·22	
		Pura	283·11	
		Rasina	304·01	
		Rasoi	135·29	
		Sinyar	651·28	Rund and hill.
		Sikar	1[illegible]1·56	Forest.
		Simaria	168·09	
		Semra Biri ...	225·00	Rund.
		Sukhwan ...	1,243·83	
		Thakurpura ...	245·93	
		Koti	278·27	Rund.
		Bijna	538·95	Do.
		Simraha	1,260·75	Do.
		Digara	580·69	Do.
		Chamraua ..	325·15	Do.
		Khailar . .	240·66	Do.
		Bhagwantpur ..	617·92	Do.
		Punauli	490·77	Do.
		Dhikauli .	414·23	Do.
		Sijwaha	925·61	Do.
		Jhansi Tukra ..	12·47	Do.
		Total ...	14,731·06	
	Mau	Barora	419·79	
		Ghat Lahchura ...	680·42	
		Ghurat ...	887·76	
		Kachneh ...	170·10	
		Kheri ...	315·78	
		Khisni buzurg ..	1,077·61	
		Mangarwara ...	660·60	
		Rora Bhatpura ..	1,060·98	
		Ganupur ...	489·44	
		Mangarpur ..	802·74	
		Total ...	6,565·22	
	Garautha	Barmain	283·63	
		Bhasneh (including Madhopura, Itaura and Ramapura).	1,258·18	

GOVERNMENT FORESTS—(*continued*).

Range.	Pargana.	Name of village.	Area.	Description.
Jhansi—(*continued*).	Garautha—(*concld.*).	Gurha	877·55	
		Imlauta	485·38	
		Kharwanch ...	280·26	
		Ramora	673·36	
		Tharro	435·68	
		Moti Katra ...	2,268·93	
		Total ...	6,512·97	
	Moth ...	Amkhera ...	51·48	
		Ataria	12·68	
		Aupara	10·18	
		Baghaunian ...	18·50	
		Bakwan	14·65	
		Bamrauli ...	14·02	
		Barehta	31·17	
		Baral	14·70	
		Barthari ...	14·94	
		Bhorosa	7·67	
		Bharatpura ...	288·44	
		Dewal	15·00	
		Dhamna ...	8·98	
		Ghusgawan ...	24·96	
		Imlia	13·98	
		Jaunra	13·22	
		Kargawan ...	31·15	
		Karkos	14·25	
		Khilli	10·98	
		Khiria Ghat ...	11·52	
		Khiria Nand ...	28·49	
		Kumhrar ...	89·74	
		Lidhari	17·25	
		Ludhiai	23·84	
		Mahewa	58·87	
		Mirauna	8·14	
		Moth	22·46	
		Musauli	23·32	
		Nand khas ...	9·58	
		Nand pahari ..	7·73	
		Nari	7·02	
		Nibi	10·72	
		Nimonia ...	15·60	
		Pahargaon ...	29·47	
		Bhaunra Erachh ..	18·01	
		Bhaunra ghat ...	15·57	
		Bijta	24·80	
		Barauli	10·60	
		Chelra	27·48	
		Chhirauna ...	8·85	
		Chirgaon ...	28·86	
		Dabra	8·92	
		Dabri	52·49	
		Dedar	12·14	
		Deora	21·51	
		Pahari	21·17	

GOVERNMENT FORESTS—(*continued*).

Range.	Pargana.	Name of village	Area.	Description.
Jhansi.	Moth—(*concluded*).	Parichha B. F. ...	4·95	
		Patharra ...	19·10	
		Patti Kumharra ...	5·00	
		Punchh	6·31	
		Pura Chirgaon ...	15·02	
		Pura Nand ...	12 39	
		Ramnagar ...	15·72	
		Rarua	33·60	
		Reo	12·75	
		Sai	11·88	
		Saina	15 63	
		Sirai	7 88	
		Saran	278·54	
		Saurai	9·59	
		Semri	12 30	
		Shahpur	10 30	
		Siya	8 88	
		Sikri	183·31	
		Silhri	10·80	
		Sojna	15·70	
		Talaur ...	17·65	
		Tanda	19·25	
		Total ...	1,951·96	
		Total Jhansi Range ...	29,761 21	
Lalitpur.	Lalitpur ...	Kachneda ...	202·00	
		Sairwans ...	134·00	
		Total ..	336·00	
	Bansi ...	Haraspur ...	4,060·00	
		Pipra	826·00	
		Chipai	362·00	
		Total ...	5,248·00	
	Talbehat ...	Nathi khera ...	1,993	
		Birdha	1,577	
		Hissar	1,330	
		Sanori	207	
		Piprai	276	
		Rajpur	1,052	
		Bijrotha	914	
		Gulainda	835	
		Lalaun	860	
		Jamalpur ...	443	
		Sarkhari... ...	33	
		Mau	80	
		Total ...	9,105	

GOVERNMENT FORESTS – (continued).

Range.	Pargana.	Name of village.	Area.	Description.
Lalitpur.—(continued).	Talbehat.—(concluded).	Barma Behar ...	334	Protected forests.
		Shahpur	184	Do.
		Jharar	168	Do.
		Hinauta	50	Do.
		Thana	115	Do.
		Bingawan Kalan ..	298	Do.
		Kaprer Khurd ..	24	Do.
		" Kalan ...	75	Do.
		Gugar	64	Do.
		Bhadona ..	57	Do.
		Rajawan... ..	101	Do.
		Talbehat	532	Do.
		Karesra .	151	Do.
		Pawa	576	Do.
		Total ...	2,729	
	Balabehat ...	Dudhai	6,320	Forest reserve
		Piyan	183	
		Bharaun	1,911	
		Murari .. .	812	
		Chintraghat ...	459	
		Balabehat ...	4,553	
		Beoharpura ...	501	
		Patiai	1,428	
		Rasoi	310	
		Hinota	1,627	
		Bamori Binsa ...	651	
		Umaria Wirin ...	361	
		Bijori	795	
		Dinwar	2,377	
		Chanbiro ...	197	
		Pirrania ...	229	
		Binpur .	541	
		Siipura khalsa ...	698	
		Maholi	753	
		Kiroda	499	
		Mamdi	593	
		Sukhpura ...	153	
		Richha	176	
		Deogarh	1,100	
		Kuchdou... ...	630	
		Saipura	328	
		Jamunia	114	
		Chandpur ...	795	
		Jehazpur ...	162	
		Chauka	105	
		Amau khera ...	280	
		Garautha (North) ...	294	
		" (South) ...	499	
		Total ...	30,434	

GOVERNMENT FORESTS—(*concluded*)

Range.	Pargana.	Name of village.	Area.	Description.
Lalitpur.—(*concluded*).	*Banpur	Baroia Dang ...	2,671	
		Semra Dang ...	281	
		B.mori Kharail ...	296	
		Paron	310	
		Bar	590	
		Tori	152	
		Larwari	281	
		Total ...	4,531	
	Madaora ...	Lakhaujhir .	3,714	
		Gonthra ..	3,710	
		Papra	1,486	
		Bangawan (North) ...	497	
		" (South) ...	642	
		Bandwa	1,425	
		Solda	2,446	
		Dhauri Sagar ...	5,497	
		Madanpur (West) ..	2,135	
		Nimkhora ..	264	
		Barkhera	582	
		Parol	2,596	
		Patna	1,500	
		Madanpur (East) .	1,136	
		Darutal	66	
		Amoda	522	
		Bhonti .	307	
		Talgawan .	317	
		Barai	294	
		Hadda	2,284·56	
		Thungana ...	592	
		Guna	1,814	
		Patna Wiran ...	389	
		Jaitupura ...	204	
		Kurrat	33	
		Barwar	724	
		Pisnari (North) ...	245	
		" (South) ...	163	
		Gora kalan (Hausri)...	459	
		Uldhana	323	
		Sonrai	44	
		Total ...	36,410·56	
	Mahroni ...	Sarkora	518	
		Sonjna	1,096	
		Total ...	1,614	
		Total Lalitpur Range.	87,678·56	
		GRAND TOTAL ...	1,20,168·77	

GAZETTEER OF JHANSI.

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